

Brighton bomb police cleared of lapse

By Colin Brown, Political Staff

An independent inquiry into the Brighton bombing has cleared the police of any security lapse, the Home Secretary, Mr. Leon Brittan, has told the Commons.

Mr. Brittan will be publishing the report because of the implications, but it is understood that it does not blame the arrangements for protecting the conference. The inquiry was conducted by the Deputy Chief of the Home Office, Mr. Hoddinott, at the request of the Home Secretary, Mr. Leon Brittan.

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Libel will for Sharon

Continued from page 1

The dispute arose from the key question of whether or not the Home Secretary had the authority to refuse to grant a passport to a person who was a member of a proscribed organisation.

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READING ROOM

WHITE HORSE
Fine Old Scotch Whisky

Red faces as rebels spring a leak

By John Carvel, Local Government Correspondent

THE DEPARTMENT of the Environment, unaccustomed as it is to public leaks, was rocked yesterday by the disclosure of its plans to bring forward a private bill to amend the Local Government Finance Act 1963.

The bill, which would allow local authorities to raise rates by up to 5 per cent, was leaked to the press by a senior official in the department.

True to convention on these occasions, the victims of the leak first denied its authenticity and then reached for their lawyers to claim that the other side was dealing in stolen goods.

Ministers are treating the matter as a serious breach of security, and the leak has caused a major embarrassment to the department.

The handwritten note is in a blue exercise book. It records what individual Labour council leaders said at a meeting of the Local Government Campaign Unit, the body formed by councils which see themselves in the front line of the battle with the Government over cuts.

Although the minutes are not meant to be clear, the content of the note covers the LGCU conference at an Islington sports hall on November 15, 1984. From other material in the notebook it is also clear that it was written by a representative of the LGCU.

The minutes say that the LGCU's view is that the "prime target is winning the next general election" and that "we are going to win within the law."

Mr. David Blunkhorn, Minister of State for the Environment, has said that the LGCU's view is "not the right way forward."

Disclosure of the minutes was a shock for the local authority side, which has considerable expertise in extracting confidential information from the DfE.

The initial reaction was neither to confirm nor deny the contents of the document on the grounds that any comment might lead credence to its authenticity. Some of the leaks have heard this one before.

Mr. Jonathan Aitken, the Conservative MP for Thanet South, later protested to the Leader of the House, Mr. John Biffen, that these arrangements were highly unsatisfactory to Tory MPs.

He said it was quite wrong that the changes, such as the decision to have a separate administration for the Falklands and the South Sandwich Islands with South Georgia,

Leader's breach with hard left over miners in open

Kinnock fury over Commons disruption

By James Naughtie and Alan Travis

Mr. Neil Kinnock and the Labour Party were engaged in a bitter struggle last night over the miners' strike after the party leader had lectured MPs on what he saw as the futility of a disruptive demonstration in the Commons.



Neil Kinnock - 'a leader's speech'

CEGB 'struggling to meet demand' and Scargill tries to rally workers, page 4.

During the PLP meeting Mr. Tony Benn, Mr. Kevin Barron MP for Rother Valley, and Mr. Martin Flannery, MP for Sheffield Hillsborough, all attacked the leadership line.

Mr. Flannery referred to some members of the party "who did not go on to a picket line for 10 months" - a clear reference to Mr. Kinnock.

In response, the party leader was scathing about the group's tactics. He told them that if there were a debate in the Commons it would not focus on the case for coal or the social hardship of the strike, but rather on the Conservative's argument about the continuing return to work in the coalfields.

He said: "If they think the miners are helped or the Labour Party is helped by what they are doing then they are wrong. It is the real world."

Mr. Kinnock's speech was greeted with cheering by many MPs. One frontbencher MP said later: "That was a leader's speech. He should do it more often."

Last night's row was a full-on battle between Mr. Kinnock and his critics in the party, who have been muttering increasingly loudly about what they claim is his refusal to give full support to the National Union of Mineworkers.

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His annoyance with Mr. Benn and his colleagues in the Campaign Group are well known, but last night's comments were his most public show of anger so far.

After the suspension, Mr. Benn rose in the Commons to say he wanted to give notice that many members were determined to secure a debate in Government time next week, and Mr. Dennis Skinner, the MP for Bolsover, shouted: "You ain't seen nothing yet."

Mr. Kinnock wants to dissociate himself from the group's tactics but he was in an intensely embarrassing position last night since he knows that many party activists support a more aggressive line on the strike.

What is more, it is clear that a group of hardliners is determined to carry on the fight inside the PLP whatever the views of the leader.

The Speaker, Mr. Bernard Weatherill, had suspended the sitting after the protesters refused to accept his rulings, accusing them of an "organised operation" to bring business to a standstill.

During the lengthy procedural argument which preceded the suspension Mr. Kinnock argued that backbenchers concerned about the strike were being denied debating time by the Government and, by implication, by the shadow cabinet, which controls a number of debating days.

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ROSEMARY'S BABIES: Rosemary Wood yesterday with the twins, which she conceived with the aid of a small box called a pumpless infusion system strapped to her arm. She first tried the box, which periodically injects a hormone into the body, after being told by doctors that she would not be able to start a family. After giving birth to a son using the method two years ago she repeated the experiment to produce the twins, Richard and Katie.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gas main clue to blast

THE failure by British Gas to replace gas mains pipes might have led to the Putney explosion that killed eight people. Back page.

Editor accused

A JURY was told yesterday that the editor of the Observer misled police seeking a man who, it was feared, intended to kill himself. Page 2.

Stonehenge plan

A £3 MILLION scheme has been proposed to sweep away the "deplorable clutter" around Stonehenge. Page 3.



"Before you ask, yes I did get a lift, but it was with an ex-rabbit. Have you heard the one about the..."

Reading help

SPECIAL help is to be given to the one in five children in inner London who are unable to read by the age of eight. Page 4.

Muslim unrest

MUSLIM fundamentalism is threatening Malaysia's multi-ethnic calm, unbroken since 1969. Third World Review, page 11.

India adrift

INDIA were 134 runs behind England with six second innings wickets left in the fourth Test yesterday. Page 22.

Borrowing cut

THE Department of Health has cut by 40 per cent the amount local authorities can borrow to build homes for the elderly and handicapped. Page 2.

Market moves

FOUND down 0.010 to \$1.185; FT index up 5.9 to 957.2; Dow Jones down 1.99 to 1228.69. Markets, page 20.

The weather

CLOUDY with some snow showers. Details, back page.

THE GUARDIAN IN EUROPE

Amsterdam	24.50	Greenwich	100.00
Belgium	45.00	London	3.35
Denmark	8.50	Paris	1.80
France	5.00	Madrid	1.80
Germany	7.00	Seoul	170.00
	3.50	Switzerland	3.10

Borrowing over target by £1.5 bn

By Margaret Pagano and Christopher Huhne

Share prices soared on the stock market yesterday morning, pushing the FT index of 30 leading companies to a new record peak as sterling and interest rates stabilised. Many dealers are now convinced that the market index is set to break the magic 1,000 barrier.

The pound had a quiet day on the foreign exchanges, falling in part by a 1.9 per cent increase in consumer spending at the end of last year.

The markets were calm, despite official figures for government borrowing in December which were worse than most analysts had initially expected. The cumulative Public Sector

Borrowing Requirement for the first nine months of this financial year is 10 billion, though this is expected to fall nearer the Government's revised target of 8.5 billion as revenues pile in between January and March.

The stock market opened to hectic trading, spurred by heavy demand for shares in companies with strong potential expert earnings after the recent falls in the pound. Within two hours of trading the FT index had climbed 8.4 to the new record of 967.2, with many leading shares making double figure gains.

Government bond dealers had marked down gilts sharply before the PSRA figures were released, after reports that borrowing for the year could exceed £9 billion. They recovered gently on the figures, but closed down on the day.

Equities also eased back in the afternoon to leave the FT index up 5.9 on the day at 957.2.

The Treasury now conceded that borrowing is likely to overshoot its revised target of £8.5 billion this year as the miners' strike has lasted longer than previously assumed and higher interest rates add to debt servicing costs, but no new forecast is available.

Cold spell benefits 'bias' row

THREATS of the heaviest snow falls of the cold spell and more freezing temperatures yesterday brought a new twist to the row about the benefits of the cold spell.

There were reports that agriculture everywhere was being badly affected and that wildlife and birds were suffering from frost and lack of food. At the Wildlife Trust at Slimbridge, Gloucestershire, Miss Ruth Beckett, said large flocks of birds which normally arrived in Britain at this time of year had vanished. They normally flew via the Netherlands coast but migrants across Europe could find no trace of them.

Splash out on an auld acquaintance.

SKINLAY'S
FINEST SCOTCH WHISKY

STILL BLENDED BY A MACKINLAY, FIVE GENERATIONS LATER.

Robbers shoot 3 dead in army pay snatch

By David Pallister

Two soldiers and a civilian employee from the Scottish Infantry training depot at Glencorse, near Edinburgh, were shot dead in a payroll robbery yesterday. The three men were on a routine trip in their Land Rover to pick up £17,000 from the Royal Bank of Scotland branch in Penicuik, about two miles away.

When they failed to return the army alerted the police and the Land Rover was found about a mile off the main road from Edinburgh to Biggar in the Pentlands Hills, south of the city.

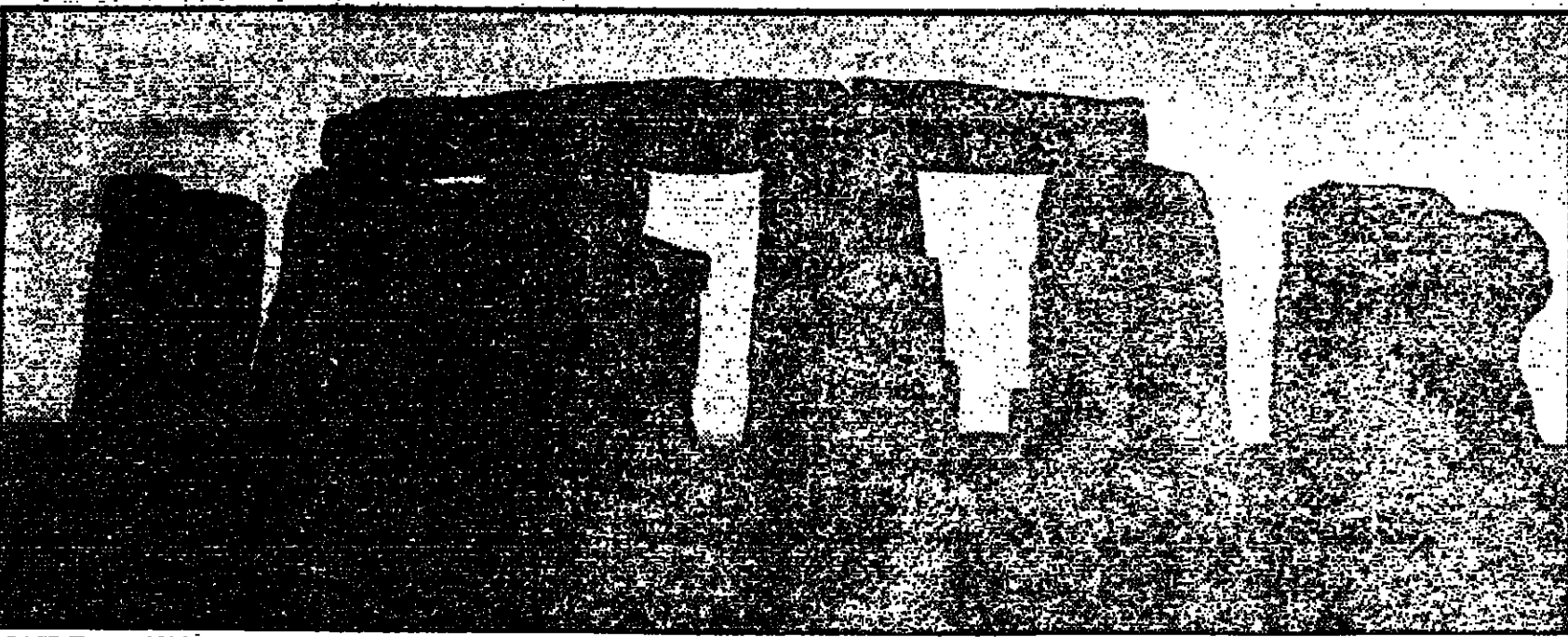
The bodies were later discovered lying in the snow about three miles up a track leading to the Glencorse reservoir. The police said that they had been killed with what appeared to be a handgun.

The men were named as Staff Sergeant Terence Hosker, a single man aged 38, with the Royal Army Pay Corps; Private John Thomson, aged 25, of the King's Own Scottish Borders, who was married and came from Bradford; and retired major David Forbes Cunningham, aged 56, who worked as an administrative officer at the depot.

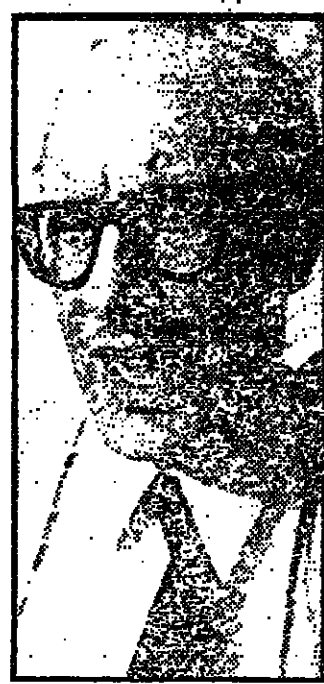
An army spokesman at the depot said the three had left at about 9 am for Penicuik. It was a regular journey but the day and the time varied up the week to week. Because of bad road conditions due to snow they were expected to take about half an hour.

The Land Rover was first seen in a ditch by a local woman. A trail of blood up the remote single track road suggested that the three had been shot before their bodies were dumped near a deserted cottage.

WE apologise to readers who yet again did not receive their copies of the paper yesterday. A continuing disagreement involving NGA composing chapels in London has meant late production of the paper and consequent effects upon early editions.



SACRED STONES: Stonehenge, which Professor Colin Renfrew (above right) says should be a worthy salute to the builders of the 20th century BC. Pictures by Kenneth Saunders



National Heritage shuns Stonehenge replica under Perspex

By Martin Wainwright

AMBITIOUS plans for Stonehenge — including a most, a life-sized replica, and a Perspex protective dome — have been rejected by English Heritage, the commission which took charge of state-owned monuments and historic buildings last year.

Instead, the commission proposes a £3 million scheme to sweep away the "deplorable clutter" round the ring of stones and display them in an "unspoiled" landscape.

Closure of the A344 trunk road and demolition of the car park and lavatories would leave Stonehenge in a rolling grass landscape. A large visitors' centre, three-quarters of a mile to the north and screened by trees, would provide a striking view of the monument from the road. The plan also includes the construction of a new road to the north and the removal of the old road, and facilities like food and historical material, which are absent at present.

"We want to offer a Stonehenge experience which is worthy of its builder and worthy of its time," said Professor Colin Renfrew, a com-

missioner of English Heritage and archaeology professor at Cambridge University. "We hope to do the best we can in the 20th century AD to salute the builders of Stonehenge in the 20th century BC."

Three months have been offered for public discussion before English Heritage takes a final decision and requests planning permission to go ahead. Strong opposition to the closure and turning over of the Stonehenge stretch of the A344 has come from local villagers, who would face a lengthy diversion.

"I for one am ready to sit down in the road as a symbol of protest," said Mrs Amy Hall, Conservative county councillor for the area. Other protesters are expected from some archaeologists who believe that the monument could be damaged by an increase in the number of visitors.

The commission envisages up to a million of these a year compared with the current 600,000, but access to the stones themselves — cur-

rently limited to Tuesdays and Fridays in the winter only — would not be increased. Security would probably depend on 24-hour patrols and a discreet perimeter fence sited much further from the monument than the present barbed wire. Experiments with ground sensors have been wrecked by moles.

The commission has taken care to carry most archaeological and local authority opinion with it, and sees the improvement of Stonehenge as a test of its effectiveness. In the shorter term, the commission and the National

Trust, which owns most of the surrounding land, are wrestling with the problem of how to deal with the illegal music festival which brings around 30,000 people to a field close to Stonehenge every summer. The National Trust has announced that it will bar the event this year, and the festival world certainly be irreconcilable with English Heritage's new scheme.

The Stonehenge Study Group report may be obtained from English Heritage at 2 Marsham Street, London SW1, price £3.00.

Whitehall to vet shortlists for 200 NHS posts

By David Hencke, Social Services Correspondent

Health authorities have been ordered to keep secret from their own members and officials shortlists of candidates for over 200 general manager posts until they have been personally approved by Mr Norman Fowler, the social services secretary.

The move means that ministers are prepared to examine up to 1,000 names in Whitehall for posts in over 200 district health and special health authorities.

The instruction, which has been relayed to regional health authorities by the Department of Health, is motivated partly by a desire to maintain secrecy and partly as an attempt to force health authorities to accept nominations from businessmen.

Ministers are understood to be dismayed at the lack of response from businessmen for posts which carry a three to five-year contract and salaries of under £30,000 a year.

Some regions, such as South-east Thames regional health authority, have told their districts they can offer salaries of up to £35,000 for outstanding candidates. One Surrey health authority has been ordered by the Department of Health to include

a ban on its shortlist because ministers would not accept a list with no one from outside the NHS.

In another case, involving an official at West Lambeth health authority, a job was offered to an applicant who was subsequently vetoed by ministers. Ministers are alarmed that legal proceedings could follow after a complaint was lodged by Mr Nick Cowan, chairman of West Lambeth authority.

Protests have also been made over the vetoing of appointments at Wycombe, Milton Keynes, and East Berkshire health authorities.

Disquiet has also been expressed over procedures at Hampstead health authority in north London when authority members were told that they could not be given the shortlist until it had been approved by Mr Fowler.

Ministers are assured of at least one appointment of an outsider to a regional general manager's post. East Anglian regional health authority is not considering any internal candidates.

The Department of Health confirmed that ministers were insisting on secrecy over shortlists and that this concern had recently been reinforced by Mr Kenneth Clarke, the health minister.

Secrecy relaxed for life sentence reviews

From Paul Johnson

Changes in the way life sentences are reviewed in Northern Ireland were announced yesterday by the Government.

The alterations, which come in the wake of a campaign by welfare groups and politicians, mean that prisoners will be told when their cases are to be considered by the life sentence review board and they will be able to make written representations.

Where the board, which operates within the Northern Ireland Office and looks at all cases before they are passed on to ministers, does not recommend the fixing of a release date, the prisoner will be told when his case is to come up next.

There has been a lot of criticism within the province that the review procedure was conducted behind closed doors with little consideration for the morale of inmates and their families.

In particular, there was anger about the position of serving men held in gaol "at the Secretary of State's pleasure". Almost all of them were convicted of murder during

the 1970s. But as they were under the age of 18 the Children and Young Persons Act decreed they could not be sentenced to life imprisonment.

They were consequently given indeterminate sentences. Those concerned about the so-called "SOSPs" stressed their youth at the time of the offences and the influence exerted over them by the older paramilitaries.

Those serving life and open-ended sentences normally have their cases reviewed first after three years and again after six. The next close look at the inmates comes after eight years for the young prisoners and 10 years for the lifers.

Mr Nicholas Scott, minister with responsibility for gaols at the Northern Ireland Office, said yesterday that the power to release prisoners serving indeterminate sentences would remain with the executive rather than the judiciary.

But Mr Scott warned: "In deciding to fix a release date the Secretary of State's overriding consideration is the need to protect the public from the risk of further violence."

GPs may perform minor operations

By David Hencke, Social Services Correspondent

Proposals for GPs to take over minor operations, child health clinics and routine blood pressure screening from hospitals have been put to Mr Kenneth Clarke, the Health Minister, by the British Medical Association.

A report published yesterday by the BMA's general medical services committee says the plans would save the NHS money and provide a better service for patients.

It says that analysis shows that general medical services can be performed far more cheaply by GPs than by hospitals. But it also says that such comparisons are not used when alternative services are being considered.

It found that it would be quite feasible for GP surgeries to take over the entire minor surgery of a local district hospital. Most minor operations are for the removal of warts, cysts and moles and the treatment of ingrowing toenails.

The report says that patients would not have to wait for operations or spend time visiting hospitals; hospital waiting lists could be cut and better use could be made of general practitioners' skills and facilities.

Similar savings would also be possible if GPs took a bigger interest in child health in the form of setting up community health clinics. Higher attendances were reported at GP clinics in a study undertaken for the report.

Dr Peter Ennoch, deputy chairman of the general medical services committee and a Derbyshire GP, said yesterday: "We have issued this report as part of a discussion process to stimulate interest among the general public. Doctors have been very frustrated that there has been no debate about the development of family practitioner services for over two years."

He said that the report had originally been undertaken by Coopers and Lybrand Associates, accountants commissioned by the BMA to look at the future of GP services.

Council to axe scheme for home ownership

By John Carvel, Local Government Correspondent

The housing minister, Mr Ian Gow, yesterday received an embarrassing warning from the housing authority representing his own constituency of Eastbourne.

The council said it would be obliged to abandon schemes for low-cost home ownership, which have been much trumpeted by the Government, because of the changes in the housing investment rules which ministers announced before Christmas.

Eastbourne borough council is under Liberal control but has participated enthusiastically in the Government's shared ownership initiative which is designed to help low-income families to start up on the property-owning ladder.

Mr David Tutt, housing chairman, said yesterday that Eastbourne's planned £8 million housing programme would have to be cut by £2.35 million because of the new investment regime.

A shared ownership scheme for 48 new homes would be axed because the Government has changed the rules governing council's ability to reinvest capital receipts from the sale of assets, he said.

The Institute of Housing reports that Conservative-controlled councils are also cancelling new low-cost home ownership projects such as "improvement for sale" and "home-steading" schemes because of the change in rules on capital receipts.

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FIAT
SETTING NEW STANDARDS

Sources claim fuel stocks are nearly exhausted

CEGB 'is struggling to meet demands for power'

By Keith Harper, Labour Editor

The Central Electricity Generating Board is experiencing problems maintaining power supplies because of the miners' strike, in spite of claims by the Government that it can sustain supplies throughout 1985 without any power cuts.

Information supplied to the Guardian from within the CEGB suggests that some power stations are nearly out of fuel, although imports of coal during 1984 were double what they were in previous years, thus indicating that attempts by the union to prevent coal from being brought from abroad have met with no success.

But board sources say that, in theory the CEGB has 51,000 megawatts capacity, while in practice it can under normal running produce 45,000 MW. "Times, however, are not normal. According to CEGB sources, the switch to oil and the fact that maintenance is reduced lessens generating efficiency. Stand-by, is therefore greater and reserve generating capacity is smaller or non-existent.

The CEGB made much of its achievement of generating 4,800 MW on January 8 between 4.30 and 5 pm, the peak time of day. But it is not always as easy as that.

An internal CEGB document for December 18, 1984 in the possession of the Guardian shows that the peak demand on that day was 42,300 MW, but that the amount of power available was only 42,800 MW, which included 900 MW from

the South of Scotland Electricity Board. If this evidence is to be believed, the CEGB almost fell short of being able to meet peak demand.

So far, the board has been able to meet demand without mishaps, although voltage reductions have been a part of the power scene since the autumn, and have gone almost unnoticed by the public. Supplies of coal are plentiful in the Trent Valley and the southern power stations, but the Yorkshire power stations, according to the unofficial CEGB source, are in a real trouble. At Ferrybridge C, two sets are on breakdown until May 1985, and another two sets are generating at only half capacity due to lack of coal.

Sources say that what is described within the CEGB as "general winter" has only just emerged, and that the strains on the system, even with the huge use of oil, will be extremely heavy in the next few weeks.

Support for striking miners by workers at Didcot power station in Oxfordshire collapsed yesterday, when more than 200 members of the Amalgamated Union of Engineering Workers reversed an earlier decision not to handle thousands of tons of coal now being brought into the plant by lorry. They were the last union solidly behind the miners.

Mr Des Healy, the AUEW convenor at Didcot, said: "We were the only major union at Didcot left supporting the TUC guidelines and our members have decided they have gone

as far as they are prepared to go."

Coal is normally delivered to Didcot by rail but train drivers have refused to cross picket lines. The plant has continued to produce electricity using oil and dwindling stocks of coal delivered before the strike. In the past few weeks, however, hundreds of lorries have been bringing coal into the plant each day and management has said that it intends to use new coal soon.

John Hooper adds: Meanwhile, British Gas announced last night that it had also broken its output records. The corporation's average daily delivery last week was 8,266 million cubic feet — 202 million cubic feet more than the previous record, set in the week ending January 16, 1982.

The latest trade figures, published yesterday, showed that coal imports were higher than ever during November — 1,161,490 tonnes. This was 136,000 tonnes more than during October and about three and a half times higher than the level during the same month of the previous year. Imports of coke accounted for a further 202,518 tonnes.

The coal strike has already cost the Yorkshire Electricity Board about £30 million in lost electricity sales to the coal industry, Mr Graham Hall, the chief commercial officer, said yesterday.

He told a meeting of the CBI regional council that this was not a complete loss because the electricity industry had not needed to generate the power. But it was a serious setback.

15 years for 'Raffles' who stole to order

By a Correspondent

RICHARD Haynes, the burglar dubbed Raffles who stole to order from stately homes and escaped three times from the police or prison guards, has been jailed for 15 years.

Haynes, aged 30, will start the sentence when he finishes his present seven-year term in 1987, but Aylesbury Crown Court was told he would escape.

He admitted five burglaries, including a £750,000 raid on Waddesdon Manor in Buckinghamshire, three escapes from custody, two assaults intending to resist arrest, five firearms charges, and possession of heroin with intent to supply.

Haynes' first escape was from Norwich Crown Court in 1980. He sawed through cell bars 10 minutes before he was due to appear on seven burglary charges.

A month later he stole £48,000 of antiques and art from Chipchase Castle in Northumberland, along with a pistol and ammunition, which were found when police raided a flat in London.

Haynes was captured after a rooftop chase, and officers found CS gas canisters, weapons and masks and a van fitted with surveillance equipment intended to monitor police vehicles.

He was jailed for seven years on the original seven burglary charges but four months later got away from Norwich Crown Court again when he was due to stand trial for the Northumberland burglary and the escape.

Haynes went on the run with hippy groups, burgling chemists' shops for drugs. He was picked up during a raid in Cornwall but again escaped from police, who discovered his identity later from fingerprints.

Detectives caught up with him before the Waddesdon Manor burglary and put him under surveillance, but he slipped away from them on the day of the raid.

He was finally arrested during a break-in at a chemist's in Wiltshire after a violent struggle with police.

Judge Lawrence Verney ordered details of Haynes' case to stay secret until the end of the trial of Charles Regan, who denied being an accomplice.

The trial of Regan, aged 30, of Royston, Hertfordshire, was stopped yesterday at the court after the prosecution had offered no evidence on charges that he assisted Haynes. Haynes assisted an escaped prisoner.

The judge discharged the jury and directed not guilty verdicts after a juror overheard a witness talking during a recess.

The judge earlier cleared Regan of two charges of assisting Haynes and another of assisting a witness to give false evidence. There was insufficient evidence.

Mr Brown, who is chairman of the British Labour Libya Group, and a delegation of MPs to Tripoli last year, said that there was a need to break the ice in some way. The three main areas where he thought the British Government could help to build up trust were in the areas of visa restrictions, premises for Libya's London representative, and moves towards an exchange of convicted prisoners.

The British detainees were visited yesterday by Mr Terry



Above left: the type of push-button telephones which will appear at airports, stations and inside buildings. Above right: the new booths will be easier for the disabled to use.

BT to ring the changes with new £160m line in telephones

By Peter Large, Technology Correspondent

BRITISH Telecom is to spend £160 million replacing the nation's telephone kiosks with what it calls "armoured microcomputers."

The push-button phones will report their own faults to headquarters, but BT yesterday refused to offer any guarantees of how quickly faults will be repaired.

About £125 million will be spent on providing sturdy, microchip-run phones in the 76,500 public call boxes and the 293,500 pay phones in hotels, pubs, and shops. The changeover, more than a year ago, should be completed in two years.

The rest of the money will be spent over the next decade on replacing the red boxes which have changed little from the design that Sir Giles Scott produced in 1927. The new kiosks will be of aluminium, stainless steel,

and reinforced glass cabinets, similar to those common in the United States for many years.

The first 300 are being imported from the US, but the next 3,500 will be made in Britain by GKN Sankey. The phone equipment has a mixture of Italian, Swiss, and American origins, though the British company Plessey has the biggest contract so far.

The kiosks come in a variety of shapes, sizes, and combinations, but their common vandal-proofing elements are: lighting, four times brighter than in the old boxes; the absence of doors in all but a few special locations (which should also help the disabled); and armoured units for the push-button keypads and coin boxes.

The new phones will accept coins from 2p to 5p in a single slot. About 15 per cent of them at the start will be cashless, using BT's own pay cards, credit cards from

Access, Visa, and American Express, or a personal code-number method that automatically debits the customer's account. BT intends eventually to combine all the payment methods in one phone unit.

The code-number service — called AccountCall — goes on trial in Bristol shortly. Trials with the credit-card phones began yesterday at Heathrow Airport and Waterloo Station. The number of BT's own phone-card units is to be expanded from 1,000 to 8,000 by next summer.

Announcing the programme yesterday, Mr Ian Vallance, BT's head of local services, admitted that call-box services were overdue for overhaul. People were now avoiding call boxes, he said, and the loss on them last year was £50 million. It was the most public of BT's activities and the "one we are least proud of."

MP suggests ways to speed Libya releases

By Seumas Milne

The Labour MP for Leith, Mr Ron Brown, has put to the Government a number of proposals aimed at speeding the release of four British detainees held in Libya since last May.

The proposals, set out in a letter to the Foreign Office minister, Mr Richard Luce, arose from meetings with Libya's representative in London, Mr Salah Maslumi. A Foreign Office spokesman said yesterday that the suggestions were being treated seriously, but Mr Luce has not had a chance to study them as returned from Oman only last night.

Mr Brown, who is chairman of the British Labour Libya Group, and a delegation of MPs to Tripoli last year, said that there was a need to break the ice in some way. The three main areas where he thought the British Government could help to build up trust were in the areas of visa restrictions, premises for Libya's London representative, and moves towards an exchange of convicted prisoners.

The British detainees were visited yesterday by Mr Terry

Waite, the Archbishop of Canterbury's envoy. After seeing them in their new living quarters on the outskirts of Tripoli he said they were well, and in excellent spirits.

Mr Waite said they were in a "much more relaxed place". He thought there was no chance of the detainees being released before the General People's Congress meets at the end of this month or the beginning of February to ratify the decision of the Basic People's Congresses.

The Libyans had been annoyed yesterday said Mr Waite, by a BBC World Service broadcast which had called the Libyan system of People's Congresses "administrative chaos." He emphasised that he had not said that. But he had been confused by the process, which he now understood.

The Foreign Office still insists that no gestures can be made to Libya until the detainees are released, but Mr Brown said he hoped that the Government would bend a little. He pointed out that there are 9,000 British workers in Libya.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Factory 'cleared'

A CHEMICAL waste firm at the centre of a controversy about birth deformities claimed yesterday that a top scientific team had cleared its operations.

Tests of soil and cattle near the former Bechtel International plant at Bonnybridge, Scotland, have shown no high levels of the dangerous chemicals which the firm's critics claim could be responsible for deformities in babies and illness in farm animals. The investigation was carried out by the environmental and medical services division of the Atomic Energy Research Establishment, Harwell. The scientists say that other sites should be considered as possible culprits.

Brakes put on Sinclair car

WORK on the new Sinclair electric car will come to an embarrassing halt at the end of the month, when the Prince and Princess of Wales tour production lines at the Merthyr Tydfil plant.

Seventeen hundred workers plan a 24-hour strike at the Ecorse factory, where washing machine motors are being converted for the vehicles.

Church meets on wedding doubts

THE Church of England has set up its first working party to examine its rights of conscience and obligations under law over weddings conducted in its churches, writes Martin Halliell. It is expected to report within the next two years.

Evidence is expected from some clergy who are unhappy about their legal obligation, as priests of the established church, to conduct marriages on request.

Royal chauffeur goes for trial

KEVIN Rowland, aged 18, who is accused of carrying a survival knife as an offensive weapon, was granted legal aid at Horseferry Road magistrates' court in London yesterday and committed, on unconditioned bail, for trial at Southwark Crown Court.

The former trainee chauffeur to the Queen Mother elected for jury trial on a charge of having the knife in Horseferry Road, Westminster, when stopped by police last December 12. He has since resigned from his job at Clarence House.

20 pc of pupils 'unable to read by eight'

By Andrew Mounier, Education Staff

One in five London eight-year-olds cannot read simple sentences with confidence, according to the chairman of a committee investigating primary education which reported yesterday.

The committee, chaired by the Government's former chief inspector for primary education, Mr Norman Thomas, was set up by the Inner London Education Authority.

It has spent a year investigating primary school pupils' education achievements, with particular attention being paid to the working class children.

While it found that 11-year-olds had improved their reading achievement between 1978 and 1983, to slightly better than the national average, the committee recommended speeding help for those with reading problems.

"Children who do not learn to read appropriate material with confidence should be studied to discover whether there are any specific and remediable causes and suitable help provided for them," says the report.

"Often this action will have been taken by the time a child is eight; it should not be left later than that."

Mr Thomas estimated yesterday that 20 per cent of London eight-year-olds would be unable to read simple sentences with understanding.

The ILEA leader, Mrs Frances Morrell, immediately endorsed the recommendation for special action on reading.

Parents should be encouraged to assist their children's progress especially in reading and maths, said the report, and ILEA could consider whether to offer parents instruction on how to help.

Each primary school needs to draw up a development plan to improve performance. An increase in men teachers is required; and where suitable, the proportion of heads and deputy heads of Asian or West Indian origins should improve.

Teachers are asked not to underestimate children with disabilities or handicaps, such as Caribbean or Cockney. Creating classes or primary and secondary schools would help education continuity, allowing 11-year-olds to get to know the senior school they will join.

Racism and sexism should be dealt with as integral parts of the curriculum, the report urges. It adds that schools should switch from teaching mathematical tables by rote and towards helping children to remember combinations of numbers, with an increase in the use of calculators in schools.

Changes are required to the 1944 Education Act to take account of changes in the teaching of religious education and the real content of morning assemblies, says the committee.

The report says that a quarter of ILEA's 131,000 primary schoolchildren come from single-parent families and 50,000 of them speak one of 147 languages other than English at home. More than 8,700 teachers are employed at 770 schools — and most parents are happy with their children's education.

Some parents were worried that the pace of learning was too slow. It found: "We believe them to be right in many cases; too often new work is at much the same level of difficulty as the old. We are not proposing that children should be harassed. It would, in some cases, be advantageous for them to take on fewer pieces of work, fewer projects or topics. Fewer pieces of writing to do now, but to work them over more thoroughly, substituting the aim of quality for the aim of quantity."

Plea change by driver

A train driver, Geoffrey Bailey, aged 26, accused of being drunk at the controls after passing through a station without stopping, changed his plea to not guilty when he reappeared before a court yesterday.

Bailey, from Ritherden Road, Balham, London, had admitted the offence at an earlier hearing when magistrates at Sutton, Surrey, heard that he could hardly stand when he got out of his cab.

The case against Bailey, who was not represented, was adjourned for reports and he was warned that there was a danger of a prison sentence.

But yesterday he was defended by Mr John Sellers, who said the driver had changed his plea. He said that although Bailey had been drinking he was not drunk as the offence of driving a train under the influence of alcohol alleged.

The chairman of the bench, Mr Geoff Fitzwater, adjourned the case until March 27, and remanded Bailey on unconditional bail.

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New plea for juries

By Malcolm Dean

Trial by jury should be retained for serious fraud cases, according to a submission by the Law Society to the Roskill Committee.

The lawyers reject the arguments against trials for long and complicated fraud cases.

The submission says that the central issue in all fraud cases is dishonesty — an issue which "has caused lawyers endless intellectual problems (but) is readily understood by men and women forming juries, using their commonsense."

The lawyers say that if the issue of dishonesty was left to judges or professional assessors, there would be a serious risk that incompetence or a breach of professional ethics could be ruled dishonest.

The Roskill Committee was set up by the Lord Chancellor to examine ways of achieving "just, expeditious and economical disposal" of long fraud trials.

ONE of the largest appeals for church restoration funds ever made in Britain will be launched later this year to pay for urgently needed repairs to Salisbury Cathedral.

A trust presided over by the Prince of Wales has been formed to raise \$2.5 million for extensive new stonework on the 13th cen-



Richard Haynes — 'vowed to police he would escape'

tury masterpiece of early English ecclesiastical architecture.

The 404ft spire, the tallest in Britain and second only to Ulm cathedral in West Germany internationally, is particularly badly affected. Rain, frost and pollution have reduced decorative and structural stonework to an alarming condition.

"There is no danger of the

£6.5m appeal to restore Salisbury Cathedral

By Martin Wainwright

Work will also be carried out on the tower and west front, using stone from Chilmark quarry near Salisbury, which supplied the

cathedral's original building, between 1220 and 1265AD. Salisbury's last big appeal was 20 years ago and preservation of the structure is a never-ending task.

Plans to demolish listed 18th century vaults in the precincts of Peterborough Cathedral to increase car parking space have been withdrawn by the dean and chapter after protests.

lack of privacy, and that claims sometimes take months to process.

The NCC report, prepared by the Scottish Consumer Council as part of a series reviewing the working of the social security system, notes marked differences between the treatment of national insurance clients with queries about contributory benefits, such as sick pay, and people claiming non-contributory supplementary benefits.

Waiting rooms for the national insurance clients were found to be more comfortable, staff were behind open counters, there were shorter waiting times, and plenty of

leaflets and posters set out claimants' rights.

Supplementary benefit claimants often had to sit for long periods on wooden benches, deal with staff behind glass partitions, and ask for leaflets kept behind the counter.

The NCC praises efforts being made by the DHSS to improve and personalise the service.

The Society of Civil and Public Servants, which represents many of the DHSS staff involved, welcomed the NCC criticisms yesterday, and endorsed most of them.

Counter Benefits, available free from the Scottish Consumer Council, 314 Vincent Street, Glasgow, G3 6XW.

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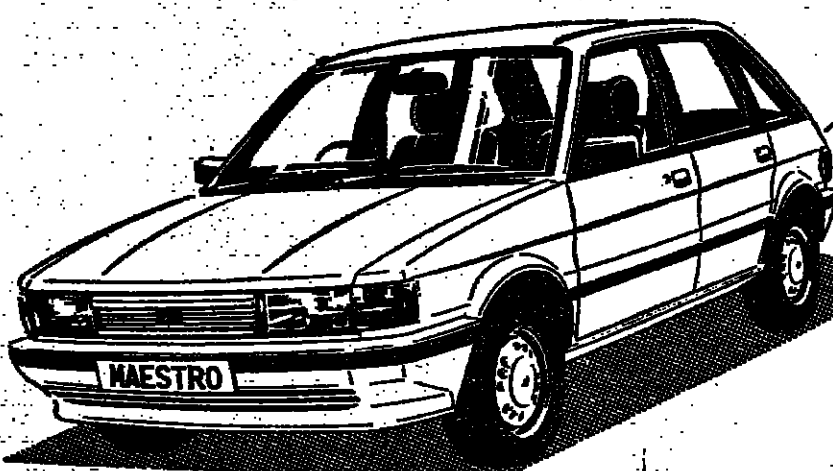
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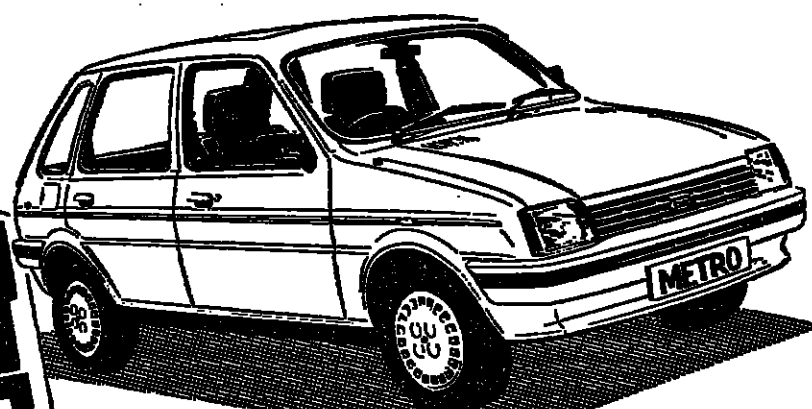
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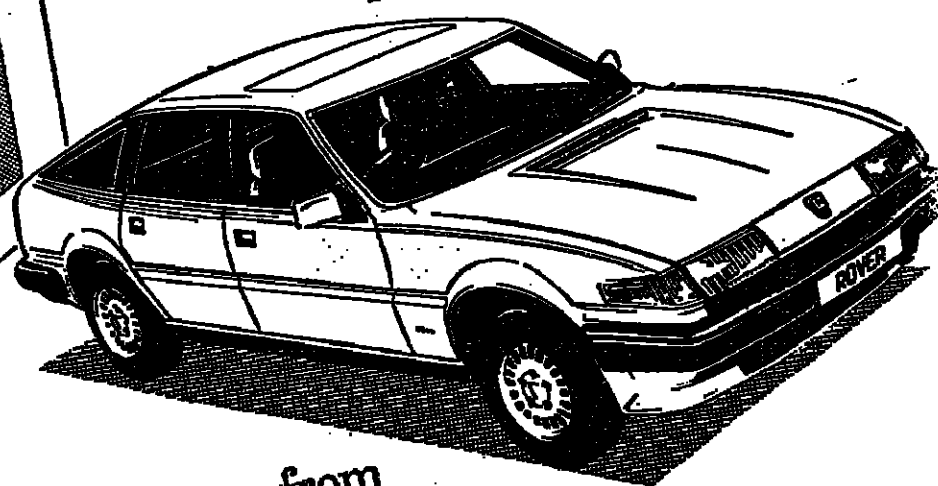
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THE DAY IN POLITICS

PM does not shut out Soviets



VE DAY

THE Prime Minister did not rule out yesterday the possibility of a Soviet presence at the planned 40th anniversary commemoration of VE day in May.

Mrs Thatcher came under heavy pressure at question time from the Ulster Unionist MP, Mr Enoch Powell, to invite a Moscow representative to the planned commemoration.

Replying to a call from the Tory backbenchers, the Prime Minister said that the Government would also mark the August anniversary of the end of the war in the Far East.

Mr Powell urged Mrs Thatcher to recognise the contribution of the Soviet people to victory in Europe. Mr Powell asked the Prime Minister to find a place

Minister to "direct your mind to the best way in which, in the framework of the commemoration, there can be a place for the representation of the Russian people, whose suffering, whose fortitude and whose valour made our own survival and our victory possible."

Mrs Thatcher promised: "Yes, of course I will bear that factor in mind."

Earlier Mr Robert Rhodes James (C, Cambridge) reminded the Prime Minister that VE day did not mark the end of the second world war.

Mr Rhodes James said that tens of thousands of young people from Britain and the Commonwealth, including members of his own family, had served and suffered in the Far East campaign.

Mrs Thatcher assured him that she was very much aware of the "important and brave part" played by so many people in the war in

the Far East and of the victory in August 1945. "We shall of course remember both occasions in these celebrations or commemorations which we have," she said.

Mrs Thatcher will answer questions on British VE-Day celebrations when she goes to Bonn today — weather permitting. The Prime Minister is to meet Chancellor Dr Helmut Kohl, for whom the celebrations have become delicate politically. The Germans are thought to want a fairly low-key affair. With Mrs Thatcher are expected to be the Foreign Secretary, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Environment Secretary, Patrick Jenkin, and Trade Minister Paul Channon. They will return the same day.

The White House announced yesterday that the Prime Minister will visit Washington on February 2 to resume the talks on East-West relations she held with President Reagan on December 22.

Belgrano affair in new venue

By Richard Norton-Taylor

Members of the Commons defence committee are now anxious to investigate aspects of the continuing controversy surrounding the sinking of the Belgrano during the Falklands conflict. Their concern has been prompted by the growing number of contradictions given in evidence to the foreign affairs committee.

Both Tory and Labour MPs on the defence committee believe that it is more appropriate for them to investigate some of the issues that have recently been thrown up, including the whole question of political control of the military.

Back-bench MPs are concerned and intrigued about the long letter sent by Mrs Thatcher to the Labour foreign affairs spokesman, Mr George Foulkes, on Wednesday. She said that Lord Lewin, then Chief of Defence Staff and senior military adviser, did not know about a crucial signal from the submarine Conqueror reporting the sighting of the Belgrano on May 1, 1982.

Labour MPs on the foreign affairs committee have succeeded, meanwhile, in getting the endorsement of their Tory colleagues to press ahead with their inquiry into the Belgrano sinking. They have drawn up a list of detailed questions to Mrs Thatcher, Lord Lewin and the Defence Secretary, Mr Michael Heseltine.

Spending plans

The Government is to publish its spending plans for 1985-86 next Tuesday in the Public Expenditure White Paper, the Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson disclosed yesterday in a Commons written reply.

Four-month freeze on regional grants

REGIONAL AID

By Alan Travis

THE Trade and Industry Secretary, Mr Norman Tebbit, announced in the Commons yesterday a four-month moratorium on the payment of regional development grants which took effect at midnight last night.

The announcement brought immediate Labour protests that the moratorium would hit the cash flow of companies in assisted areas, which would now have to borrow the money at the new, higher interest rates.

During a debate on regional policy Mr Tebbit said that the old regional development grant scheme and the new scheme for regional aid which came into operation in November would run side by side, with considerable overlap.

"In 1983 we estimated that spending on regional industrial incentives in the year about to commence, 1983-84, would be just under £800 million. It is now clear that with the new policy for regional aid, expenditure would have increased to well over £800 million and such a bulge of expenditure simply could not be afforded."

"We are therefore introducing today a four-month moratorium on the payment of old-style regional development grants. It means there will be a four-month gap between the approval of an application and payment. This will apply until further notice. It will not apply to properly completed applications for grant which were either received or postmarked before midnight tonight (last night) nor will it apply to the new RDG scheme."

The moratorium will ensure that next year we spend no more on regional industrial incentives than we forecast in 1983," he claimed. "There would not be any substantive reduction in the amount spent next year compared to the 1983 forecast. Nor will grants be lost — they will only be delayed," said Mr Tebbit.

Companies in designated areas wishing to receive grants can still apply and be



Mr Smith — deep concern

given approval, but the payment would not start until four months later, "unless there is an intervening period of a material change in circumstances by reference to which the application for grant was approved, or the amount payable was determined." Requests for priority treatment of particular cases will not be considered as this would be unfair to our applicants, said the Secretary of Trade and Industry.

The announcement was made during a debate on the government review of regional policy aimed at cutting the regional aid budget by £300 million in the next three years.

The results of the review were announced in November and will include the merging of the three-tier structure of assisted areas into two, with the top level Special Development Areas disappearing. This change will save £150 million and a similar sum is expected to be saved by the ending of grants for replacement of plant and machinery.

Mr Tebbit said that the new policy was aimed at reducing the imbalance between the prosperous and the most hard-hit areas of Britain.

In the past major companies shopped around for the

highest grant rates to locate their branches, but then just as the money was coming in, branches were hit by recession. It merely shuffled jobs from one area to another, said Mr Tebbit.

He said that 35 per cent of the population would benefit from the new policy and it gave maximum access to the European Regional Development Fund.

"In 1987-88 there will be savings of £300 million a year on what we would have spent with the old policy of regional aid. The money that is to be spent will be spent more effectively and the Chancellor will be happy."

Mr John Smith, Opposition spokesman on Trade and Industry, expressed deep concern about the sudden announcement of the moratorium.

"You will know the effects of this will be to do considerable damage to many companies that are dependent upon regional assistance for their viability."

There would be substantial effects on the cash flow of the companies involved as they would now have signed binding contracts for goods and services on the basis that they would have had the money from the Government.

"They may be able to borrow to make up the difference of the four months, but they will have to pay the interest rates, which are higher as a result of recent government policy."

He said that Mr Tebbit could not have it both ways. There was the same amount of money available for the new policy, in which case it should be spent now, or the moratorium amounted to a new cut, said Mr Smith.

"If there is no real change and this is merely creative accounting, then there ought to be no need for the moratorium."

Mr Alan Beith, the Liberal chief whip, said the moratorium and the policy review were a double blow to those areas which have been excluded from the regional development map.

He said those who were setting the last chance from the scheme and had brought forward projects to set within the scheme would not now be paid for four months.

Laker hits BA sale

By Jim Naughtie

The Government admitted yesterday that the privatisation of British Airways will be significantly delayed by the current court room battle being waged in the United States against the airline by Sir Freddie Laker.

Mr Michael Spicer, a Transport Under-Secretary, said in a Commons written answer: "There is some slippage in the plans for privatising British Airways because of the uncertainties created by the application of US anti-trust law to air services under the Bermuda 2 Aviation Agreement including the US civil law suits following the collapse of Laker Airways."

"It remains my firm intention, however, to proceed with the privatisation as soon as practicable in the next financial year."

Blacks renew call to Labour

By Stephen Cook

A fresh attempt to persuade the Labour Party to set up formal black sections at local, regional and national level is being made by the national steering committee of the two dozen unofficial black sections already in existence.

The committee has sent a document to constituency Labour Parties arguing the case for black sections to be set up, like women's sections and the Young Socialists. It also suggests how CLPs should respond to a consultation document on the issue sent to them recently by the party's national executive.

"We believe black people must be involved in the process of discussion and formulation so that we can advise and criticise from the perspective of our disadvantage," the document says. "Black sections are a means of getting a black voice formally established in the party."

"The party must recognise that special steps like this are needed urgently to redress the racial imbalance in our ranks. We must break the vicious cycle of 'no black representation' leading to racist policies which alienate black people and make them unwilling to join us. We will need, in the short term, forms of 'positive action' to tackle the problem."

The call for black sections has aroused strong opposition from the party's leadership, including the leader, Mr Neil Kinnock. A working party is still considering the issue, but a resolution calling for black sections was defeated at last year's party conference.

The new steering committee document says it is "scandalous" that there are no black MPs for a party which derives one million votes — one-eighth of its support — from black people.

"Positive action must be

taken to ensure that black people play a full part in selections. Where black people have been nominated, they must be shortlisted for selection as prospective MPs and councillors. There should be reserved places on the national executive for blacks, it adds.

The document also says that the Labour Party has suffered from "institutional racism." It has no black advisers or officials, it says, and election manifestos make only passing reference to the needs of black people. It says the Parliamentary Party has repeatedly carved into "racist ideology on immigration and nationality."

It also warns of a tendency for black voters, particularly the young to abstain from elections, thus reducing Labour's chances of winning the marginal urban seats it needs to form a government. There are estimated to be 37 marginals where black voters could effectively determine who wins.

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Short money set to grow

By Colin Brown

Financial assistance to the opposition parties, known as "short money," will be increased by about 39 per cent next week after a late night debate in the Commons.

The assistance to the Labour Party will be raised from about £317,000 to about £440,000. The Liberal Party which currently receives £240,000 and the SDP, who get £45,000, will have similar increases.

The substantial increase over the amount granted by the Commons in March last year is intended to enable the opposition parties, including Plaid Cymru and the Ulster Unionists, to operate at Westminster without the need of a further increase during the present Parliament.

It is understood that the Government had argued in favour of an increase more in line with the inflation rate of about 5 per cent. But the opposition parties successfully forced them to accept the need for a larger increase to carry them over the next three years.

Although the principle of providing public money for the opposition parties was established in 1975 by the then Labour Cabinet minister, Mr Ted Short, some Tory MPs remain opposed to the idea. These include Mr Harvey Proctor (Billerica), who objected to the increase last year although he did not vote against it.

Mr Proctor said he was opposed to aid for political parties in principle and in detail. It is likely that some Tory MPs will share his view and oppose the increases when they are brought before the Commons for approval on Wednesday night.

The distribution of the money is made according to the number of seats and votes polled for each of the opposition parties in the last general election. Because Labour's support fell they had a cut last year from the maximum of £525,000 to £317,000.

Next week

HOUSE OF COMMONS
Monday: Home Rule Bill (Second Reading); Electoral Act (Northern Ireland) Order.
Tuesday: Debate on supplementary estimate for 1984-85 (General Estimate); House of Commons (Scotland) Bill (Second Reading); Consideration of Bill (No. 2 Bill) (General Estimate); Financial assistance to opposition parties (General Estimate); House of Commons (Scotland) Bill (Second Reading); Dangerous Vessels Bill (Committee).
Wednesday: Debate on Government's economic statement; Consideration of Bill (No. 2 Bill) (General Estimate); House of Commons (Scotland) Bill (Second Reading); Dangerous Vessels Bill (Committee).
HOUSE OF LORDS
Monday: Presentation of Offences Bill (Committee); Special Development Grant Bill (Report); Dangerous Vessels Bill (Committee).
Tuesday: Presentation of Offences Bill (Committee); Special Development Grant Bill (Report); Dangerous Vessels Bill (Committee).
Wednesday: Presentation of Offences Bill (Committee); Special Development Grant Bill (Report); Dangerous Vessels Bill (Committee).
Thursday: Presentation of Offences Bill (Committee); Special Development Grant Bill (Report); Dangerous Vessels Bill (Committee).
Friday: Presentation of Offences Bill (Committee); Special Development Grant Bill (Report); Dangerous Vessels Bill (Committee).

Owen style makes Welsh hackles rise

By Paul Heyland, Welsh Correspondent

Rumblings of discontent within the Social Democratic Party about policies and Dr David Owen's style of leadership have surfaced in Wales, where an agreement on joint selection of candidates was secured despite stiff opposition from the party's London headquarters.

Mr Gwynor Jones, the chairman of the SDP in Wales, is calling for greater democracy within the party and a concentration on policies to "counter the myth that we are a one-man band bolstering up the Tories."

The former Labour MP for Carmarthen, who helped to form the SDP in Wales, has become increasingly outspoken about the organisation of the party since Mr Roy Jenkins relinquished the leadership. A former parliamentary private secretary to Mr Jenkins in a Labour administration, Mr Jones is concerned by the manner in which, he says, the SDP has become increasingly controlled by supporters of Dr Owen.

He has stood down from the party's national committee because of the pressure of work, but still attends speaking engagements in Wales, "which qualify me to speak out on matters that are being widely discussed by members in private."

Mr Jones, the assistant education officer for West Glamorgan, is worried that Dr Owen appears to have "too great an affection" for some of the Tories' policies. He claimed: "David is one of the most significant politicians of our day but at times his ideas tend to have the same black and white approach as that adopted by Mrs Thatcher."

"He goes down the same road on some economic issues and he was taking the same hard line on the miners' strike. Some of the activities on the picket lines have been wrong and democracy was usurped, but there is also a genuine fear about the loss of jobs. David has mellowed on the miners' strike, if only because he has kept quiet about the issue for a long time."

Mr Jones said: "We should clearly be seen as a party which is against the establishment, which is against what Mrs Thatcher is doing, which is for the disadvantage and appreciates people's fears of nuclear weapons."

He questioned what he described as Dr Owen's "tight rein" on the party. "Roy Jenkins was a much freer leader. He understood that criticism was never made personally. I believe David is anxious to ensure that nothing goes wrong and those who begin to question actions, policy or speeches are regarded as renegades, which is a classic way of trying to make you feel that you don't matter in other people's eyes. A new party, if it cannot afford to be radical in its early years, will soon become

a very conservative organisation.

Newspaper profiles presenting Dr Owen as an admirable captain with a maverick crew have annoyed Mr Jones. "These articles about a maverick leader surrounded by rabble and pigmies, with an Alliance partner of no importance, are totally wrong. I want David to renounce all this."

"This is a party of dedicated people. I want David to say that he is an Alliance man. This is not a one-man band. If he was to disappear from the scene the party would survive because it was founded on principles and not personalities."

He continued: "I find it disturbing to see the party's newspaper being dominated by one man. People will soon become fed up with seeing David's picture on page after page."

"I don't think the party is democratic enough and it is not open enough on policy formulation. It is almost as if it is completely without leaders to question the preservation of policy. However, there are encouraging signs since regional committees are now being set up in England along similar lines to the Welsh and Scottish models. They clearly understand the need to organise themselves to combat centralism."

The reluctance of SDP leaders to embrace joint selection has dismayed Mr Jones. "You don't pretend to break the mould of British politics by tinkering with one or two seats," he said.

Dr Owen's speculation about the Alliance having a persuasive role to play in the event of a hung Parliament at the next general election has further disappointed Mr Jones. "You don't get your troops working by telling them that they are not going to win," he said.

He added: "If I was asked by my leader to join a Tory coalition I would not do it. It was what the ideal was all about, to get a couple of seats in a Tory Cabinet, then some people have very limited vision."



Mr Jones — ex-Labour MP

HOTEL HEATING COSTS CAN BE LESS RITZY BY 52%

There's no need to move your establishment to the Mediterranean to enjoy the warmth.

A lot of hotel managements have discovered how to take the chill off their heating bills and give their guests a warm welcome at the same time.

With gas. Two recent developments have made all the difference.

First: since 1983 supplies of gas have become more available.

Hotels that have been using other fuels have found they could now turn to gas.

Second: the latest gas equipment is getting more fuel-efficient.

That's what's happened at the Britannia Adelphi Hotel in Liverpool.

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Contact Commercial Sales at your British Gas region, and we'll analyse both your present and future fuel requirements.

We'll advise you on the right equipment for your needs.

You'll probably be pleasantly surprised by the very welcome savings you'll make.



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You've heard the fallacies about the NHS drugs bill. Now here are the facts.

From the 1st April the Department of Health proposes to cut the range of medicines prescribable on the NHS. This means that many valuable treatments will not be freely available in any form.

Below we present some facts and fallacies about medicines and their costs to Britain. We hope that this information will help you to understand why this bureaucratic plan (which would reduce NHS doctors' prescribing freedom, impair the treatment of some patients and harm the British pharmaceutical industry) is as unnecessary as it is uncaring.

FALLACY: *The NHS medicines bill is rapidly escalating and running out of control.*

FACT: Over the past 20 years the medicines bill, as a proportion of total NHS expenditure, has remained almost constant. It is still under 10 per cent of NHS costs.

FALLACY: *There are as many as 17,000 products available on the NHS TWICE as many as 25 years ago.*

FACT: When government ministers refer to 17,000 products they are talking about product licences, the numbers of which have, in fact, halved not doubled since 1971. Doctors prescribe almost entirely from a range of just over 2,000 products listed in the Monthly Index of Medical Specialities (MIMS).

FALLACY: *Doctors' prescribing in the UK is excessive.*

FACT: Doctors in this country write on average 6.5 prescriptions per patient a year. Doctors in comparable developed countries — such as Germany, France, Italy and Spain — write almost twice as many prescriptions for each patient.

FALLACY: *Medicine prices in this country are too high and are unfair to the taxpayer.*

FACT: Medicine prices in this country are competitive with those in other major manufacturing nations — and have been subject to government regulation since 1957. Per head, Britain spends on medicines about half the amount recorded in Germany, France, America or Japan. The average cost to the taxpayer of an NHS prescription is just over £4. The average cost of treating an NHS patient in hospital is around £550 a week.

FALLACY: *Pharmaceutical companies make excessive profits.*

FACT: Pharmaceutical companies, on average, earn a real return on historic capital of 17-18 per cent on sales to the NHS — the same as the average profit for manufacturing industry as a whole.

FALLACY: *The pharmaceutical companies are mainly multi-national, and make little contribution to the nation's economy.*

FACT: Pharmaceutical exports from the UK by multi-national research based companies exceed imports by some £650 million a year — a considerable benefit to British taxpayers and the national economy.

FALLACY: *Pharmaceutical companies are not producing any really worthwhile new products.*

FACT: In the last 25 years there have been major new products for the treatment of, for example, asthma, epilepsy, heart disease, ulcers, virus diseases, high blood pressure, Parkinson's disease, leukaemia in children, some other cancers and mental illnesses. Furthermore new drugs have played a major role in saving the lives of patients needing heart, kidney and liver transplants.

FALLACY: *The Government's proposals will save taxpayers £100 million.*

FACT: Costs arising from the measures — unemployment benefits to former pharmaceutical company employees, re-employment costs, lost exports, could cost taxpayers more than the community will gain. In practical terms the only 'savings' to the taxpayer would come from the pockets of the sick, the elderly and the unemployed, who on occasions would have to pay directly for the medicines they need.

These are the facts. Do you really believe there is a case for setting up a 'limited list' of medicines for NHS patients?

The plan would damage severely the one British industry that is at present able to compete with the Americans, the Japanese and the Germans in international markets. Write to your MP at the House of Commons, London SW1.



Fighting for a healthier future.

Government seeks discussions on sweeping electoral reforms

Gandhi plans bill to ban political defections

From Ajay Bose in New Delhi

The Indian Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, yesterday announced that the Government would introduce a bill in the current session of Parliament, which began this week, to ban defections from one political party to another.

Addressing a joint session of the two houses of Parliament, Mr. Gandhi said that the bill was being introduced to promote "a healthy public life."

He also said that the Government intended to initiate wide-ranging discussions with various political parties on electoral reforms.

Defections have long been the bane of Indian political life and, despite several attempts in the past to ban this practice, unscrupulous politicians have continued to change parties at will, some of them having joined as many as five different parties in the past few years.

Moves to pass an anti-defection law were initiated nearly 30 years ago by Mr. Jawaharlal Nehru, but the move was shelved.

Most of the present national opposition parties, except the extreme rightwing Bharatiya Janata Party and the Communist parties, consist of defectors from the Congress (I) Party.

When the Janata Party gained power in 1977, the move to introduce a bill against defections was revived, but once again was defeated by different factions of the party.

Unusually, the Government itself collapsed because of a series of defections from the Janata Party.

In the past few years, however, it has been the Congress (I) Party which has been responsible for organising defections to topple state governments.

In 1982, although Congress was defeated in Assembly elections in the north Indian states of Haryana and Himachal Pradesh, heavy bribes and ministerial posts were used to win over Opposition legislators and the party managed to form governments in both states.

In 1983, an attempt to buy over legislators in the Opposition-ruled south Indian state of Karnataka failed after one of them produced tape-recorded evidence of Congressmen offering him a heavy bribe.

Undeterred, Congress next year engineered a series of defections, first in Sikkim, then in the crucial border state of Kashmir, and finally in Andhra Pradesh, where the centrally-appointed governor scouted all sides and traditions to swear in a Government of defectors supported by Congress.

Although, Mr. Gandhi was reported to have been involved in some of the defections engineered by his party in the past year, particularly in Andhra Pradesh, he is believed to be serious about a law against defections for his own political benefit if for nothing else.

A law banning defections will not only enhance Mr. Gandhi's rapidly growing image of a principled and honest politician, but also help in keeping intact his big majority.

Police yesterday arrested two men suspected of shooting and wounding the Sikh high priest in Punjab, the Press Trust of India reported.



President Zail Singh (left) and Mr. Rajiv Gandhi arrive for a joint session of Parliament yesterday

Thais accuse US of leaving Kampuchea rebels powerless against Vietnam might

Bangkok: Thailand criticised the United States yesterday for not providing aid to the Kampuchean resistance coalition that has been battered in recent weeks by a powerful Vietnamese offensive along the Thai-Kampuchean border.

China meanwhile accused Vietnamese troops of crossing their common border, scene of sporadic clashes for many years, but Vietnam claimed to be observing a unilaterally declared ceasefire.

The Thai Foreign Minister, Mr. Siddhi Savetsila, told journalists that leading American newspapers were asking why Washington was not providing such assistance and added: "I'd like to ask the same question, too."

Foreign Ministry officials, who asked not to be identified, said Thailand — regarded as a frontline pro-Western state facing a hostile Indo-China — was unhappy with Washington's reluctance as well as its failure to set forth "a clear-cut policy on South-east Asian affairs."

The US provides humanitarian aid but has sent no known military assistance to the coalition, which includes two non-Communist groups and the Communist Khmer Rouge.

Fighting appears to have intensified in recent days between the Vietnamese and Khmer Rouge, but has dropped off between the Vietnamese and other resistance elements elsewhere along the Thai frontier.

Khmer Rouge radio has claimed that guerrillas captured three Vietnamese positions in Kampuchea's north-western border province of Battambang on Monday, killing

107 Vietnamese soldiers and wounding more than 200.

But Thai military sources noted that the Khmer Rouge had stepped up its attacks in Battambang over the past week, concentrating on Vietnamese positions along National Highway 5.

About 500 Khmer Rouge troops of the 474th Division burned bridges and attacked Vietnamese bases along the highway in six days of fighting.

The Thai Foreign Minister said during a press conference that he believed the American people already were withdrawing from the "Vietnamese syndrome" — a reference to America's reluctance to become deeply involved in South-east Asia after the trauma of the Vietnam war — implying that the US Government was not.

Mr. Siddhi's comments may have been timed to coincide with the visit here of Washington's top policymaker for East Asia, Mr. Paul Wolfowitz, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific. He is to discuss regional security.

In Peking, the official Xinhua news agency reported that China had repulsed eight Vietnamese attacks on two Chinese border positions on Wednesday. It made no mention of a unilateral Vietnamese ceasefire from midnight on Wednesday, cited in a Japanese news report from Hanoi.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman, asked whether the Vietnamese had begun a lunar new year ceasefire in the border conflict, said only: "I take your question." China earlier had rejected truce proposals — AP.

Philippines drop charges against exile

Manila: The Government dropped charges of subversion against the opposition leader, Mr. Jovito Salonga, four days before his scheduled return from nearly four years of voluntary exile in the US.

President Ferdinand Marcos had ordered a review of the charges last Tuesday, saying he wanted to enable Mr. Salonga, often mentioned as a possible presidential candidate, to pursue his political aspirations to the full.

Also yesterday, the Labour Minister, Mr. Blas Ople, said he

believed some American officials wanted to help the opposition, and warned the US against intervening in Philippine affairs.

Opposition leaders have said they feared Mr. Salonga would be arrested or killed upon his arrival next Monday.

The State Prosecutor, Mr. Sergio Apostol, said he had filed the necessary dismissal motion on instruction from President Marcos, before Judge Rodolfo Ortiz, who has been conducting the trial of 20 of Mr. Salonga's co-accused since

1982. A spokesman for the Justice Minister, Mr. Estelito Mendoza, said the case against them was also being reviewed.

The charges, which carry a maximum penalty of death, arose from a series of terrorist bombings that killed one person and injured nearly 100 others in 1980. The military said the bombings were part of an opposition plot to overthrow the Government by assassinating Mr. Marcos and other officials.

A total of 79 people, including the murdered opposition leader, Mr. Benigno Aquino, and other prominent Filipino opposition figures in self-exile in the US, were named in the case, but only 20 were arrested and put on trial.

Mr. Mendoza said the charges against Mr. Salonga were being dropped because the man who implicated him in the alleged plot — a naturalised American of Filipino descent, Victor Burns Lovely — was now back in the US and "has ceased to be available as a witness."

SELF-EMPLOYED? NO PENSION WITH YOUR JOB? KEEP THIS PAGE. WHAT'S THE BEST TIME TO START YOUR OWN PENSION PLAN?

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But just a few seconds of your time now could make all the difference when you retire. As a business person you'll know that time costs money — but have you ever thought just how much?

The illustrations show why it makes good sense to plan your pension NOW. At 36 years old, Mr S. could start to build up a hefty pension fund for his retirement, but it could still be £52,283 less than if he'd started at 34 — an astonishing difference! As you can see, the longer you delay, the smaller your rewards at retirement.

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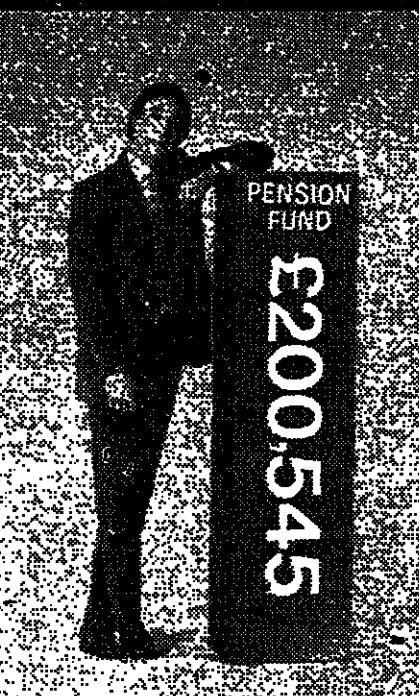
In addition, your contributions go into a special Sun Alliance Fund which is free of most UK taxes, which means your investment can grow much faster.

NOW?



Mr S. aged 34. Retiring 65.
Premium £50 gross per month (only £35 after tax relief at 30%).
Projected Pension Fund £252,828
To provide a Full Pension: £41,260 p.a.
or Lump Sum £83,089
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Premium £50 gross per month (only £35 after tax relief at 30%).
Projected Pension Fund £200,545
To provide a Full Pension: £32,725 p.a.
or Lump Sum £65,902
plus Reduced Pension: £19,513 p.a.

contributions. This is possible, right up to the maximum 17½% of your earnings*.

If, however, there comes a time when money is tight, the Personal Pension Plan allows you to reduce your contributions — and, if things are critical, stop them altogether. Provided you start paying again within two years the fund will accept your contributions as before.

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The minimum amount you may invest in your pension each month is £10. The maximum investment is 17½% of your earnings*.

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*Annuity only to persons residing in the United Kingdom.

Sun Alliance, LDM Dept., FREEPOST, Horsham, West Sussex, RH12 1ZA, before 1st Feb. 1985.

SUN ALLIANCE INSURANCE GROUP

N. Koreans call off trade talks

Tokyo: North Korea has called off trade talks with South Korea, and said that the rescheduling of the discussions would depend entirely on Seoul's attitude.

In Seoul, the National Unification Minister, Mr. Sohn Jaehik, called for a resumption of yesterday's postponed dialogue with Pyongyang and repeated Seoul's proposal for a summit meeting soon between the South's President Chun Doo Hwan and the North's President Kim Il-sung.

Pyongyang said last week that trade and Red Cross liaison talks could not be held because planned US-South Korean military exercises due to start on February 1 were provocative.

The North Korean Vice-Premier, Mr. Kim Hwan, said that a second round of North-South economic talks "depends entirely on the South Korean side's attitude."

The exercises, called Team Spirit 1985, involve more than 200,000 US and South Korean troops and will last from February 1 to mid-April.

Five people were crushed to death in Seoul yesterday, and 15 injured, in a stampede by more than 1,000 people rushing for seats at a political rally. Police said the victims were trampled while trying to enter a 200-seat auditorium in the south-eastern city of Andong. — Reuters.

Taiwanese spymaster arrested

TAIPEI: The former head of Taiwan's military intelligence bureau has been taken into military custody for questioning in a scandal that has linked officers of the agency to the murder of a Chinese-American journalist in the United States, a government official said yesterday.

Vice Admiral Wong Shi-Lin, director of the bureau since 1983, was dismissed without explanation by the Government on Tuesday, when it was announced that one of his deputies had been arrested for alleged involvement in the assassination of a political writer, Henry Liu, aged 52, who had written articles critical of the Nationalist Chinese Government in Taiwan. He was reported to have finished revising a critical biography of Taiwan's President Chiang Ching-Kuo shortly before his death.

Government sources said that President Chiang reportedly reacted furiously about the alleged involvement of military intelligence officials, personally ordered a special committee to "spare no effort to find out the truth and punish those responsible, no matter what their rank."

China is closely monitoring the case, the Peking Foreign Ministry said yesterday.

Mitterrand faces Noumea protests

Noumea: The Mayor, Mr. Roger Laroque, last night called for mass demonstrations by New Caledonia's 50,000 white settlers to show they wanted to keep the troubled territory French.

Mr. Laroque told the municipal council of the planned demonstrations as the French President, Mr. Mitterrand, prepared to make the one-day visit on Saturday.

Ethnic violence in the territory has killed 19 people in two months.

"I want no hostility. I only want the people to show their determination to stay French," Mr. Laroque said.

About 30,000 people rallied here when Mr. Laroque called for a gesture of defiance against a visiting French minister in May, 1983.

France's chief envoy, Mr. Edgar Pisani, yesterday met the leader of Melanesian militants demanding independence. No details were disclosed of his hour-long talk with Ms. Jean-Marie Tjibaou, head of the "provisional government" of Kanak militants.

Mr. Pisani has proposed a referendum in July on whether the territory should become independent next January.

Kanak and white settlers both indicated yesterday that Mr. Mitterrand would receive a hostile reception.

In Paris, Mr. Guy Claissé, editor of the left-wing newspaper Le Matin, said New Caledonia could turn into a "mortal trap" for Mr. Mitterrand just at the point when he hopes to rebuild his shattered popularity.

Broken dreams, page 15

Poison gang ends truce

Osaka: Japan's poison sweet gang has struck again after ending a year truce.

Police said yesterday that they had found lethal doses of sodium cyanide in two packets of sweets left in an envelope outside the Osaka headquarters of the Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper.

The gang said it intended to extract a \$5 million ransom from food companies this year.

Last year, the gang planted cyanide-laced sweet packets on shop shelves, causing Morinaga sales to plummet. — Reuters.

IS THIS YOU?



Ms K. runs successful Antique business. Aged 30 — wants to retire at 60. Will put aside £30 a month. (Actual cost will only be £30 a month as she pays tax at the rate of 40%).
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Mr G. Builder aged 48. Wanting to retire at 65, he can afford to save £150 gross a month, having paid off his mortgage. (After tax relief at 50% it will cost only £75 per month).
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Your income may vary. Hopefully, it will keep on going up, and you will want to increase your

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*Your earnings are defined as gross earned income less certain deductions like business expenses and capital allowances. You do not have to deduct any personal allowances. (If you were born before 1st January 1934 a higher limit than 17½% applies.)
†The figures shown in the above examples are projected benefits assuming current bonus and annuity rates continue. Future bonuses depend on profits yet to be earned and so cannot be guaranteed. Annuity rates will depend mainly on interest rates prevailing when the pension is taken.

Arms embargo on Marxists lifted as relations improve

Mozambique to get \$1m military aid from Reagan

From Mark Tran in Washington

The Administration is to ask Congress for \$1 million in non-lethal military aid for the Marxist Government of Mozambique, in what is seen as a further sign of improved relations.

The money will go on uniforms, vehicles and communications equipment. In addition, \$150,000 is to be allocated for the training of Mozambican militia, partly in the United States.

Congress is expected to approve the request since both liberals and conservatives would like to wear Mozambique away from Soviet influence. Since it gained independence from Portugal a decade ago, Mozambique has relied mainly on the Soviet Union for military and economic aid, but lately it has tried to diversify its relations, sending its troops with Western European countries and the US.

US officials believe Soviet aid has been insufficient to cope with the combined effects of drought, famine, economic problems and guerrilla insurgency encouraged by South Africa.

The aid programme is the latest evidence of the change in US-Mozambique relations. Over the past year, the two countries exchanged ambassadors and opened a cultural exchange programme. In 1984, Mozambique received more US emergency food aid than any other African country, and the

US is now resuming development aid for the first time since the late 1970s.

Relations between the two countries reached a low point in 1981, when Mozambique expelled four American diplomats which it said were CIA agents. For the next few years, the US sent only food aid to Mozambique.

In announcing the proposal to send military equipment, the State Department said the US had seen a great improvement in its relations with Mozambique over the past two years.

Officials say the aid is not designed to help President Samora Machel in his struggle against Mozambican National Resistance (Renamo) guerrillas, who continue to operate despite the signing last October of a non-aggression treaty between Mozambique and South Africa.

Patrick Lawrence adds from Johannesburg: The South African President, Mr P. W. Botha, announced yesterday that an investigation would be launched into allegations that Renamo rebels fled to South Africa after killing two Britons on Sunday.

In South Africa's first official reaction to the killings of the two men — Mr Peter Hunt, aged 49, and his son, Mr Christopher Hunt, aged 11, who were killed near Mozambique's border with South Africa, Mr Botha warned that South Africa would not tolerate the use of its territory by Renamo for attacks on Mozambique.

Request about war hero

Washington: President Reagan has asked Moscow to provide "a full and complete account" of the fate of the late Raul Wallenberg, a Swedish diplomat seized by Russian soldiers 40 years ago after helping save thousands of Jews from death in Nazi extermination camps.

"In the depths of the horrors of the second world war, Raul Wallenberg was one shining light of inspiration, upholding the honour of the human race," Mr Reagan said in a written statement.

Mr Wallenberg, assigned to the Swedish Consulate in Budapest, "pulled people out of death marches, boarded deportation trains, handed out Swedish papers to thousands of innocent people on the way to death camps," the statement said.

Mr Wallenberg was taken by Russian soldiers on January 17, 1945.

Levesque reaches end of political road

From Clive Sanger in Ottawa

The special party convention that has been called by the Premier of Quebec, Mr René Levesque, this weekend may well signal the end of the political road for a remarkable politician.

Mr Levesque is trying to change dramatically the course of the Parti Québécois, which he founded in 1968 as his instrument for taking Quebec and its six million people out of the Canadian federation.

He is convinced that his party will lose badly to the Liberals in the next election, due within one year, if it fills the campaign with talk about

independence, and he seems persuaded that he can do business with the Conservative Prime Minister, Mr Brian Mulroney as he was unable to do with Pierre Trudeau.

So, while it would be silly to call Mr Levesque "a born again federalist" he is intent on putting separatism on ice for the rest of his political career.

He called this special party convention in Montreal to wipe out a controversial resolution passed at the regular party convention last June. This declared that in the next provincial election a vote for independence would not be raised during the next Parliament.

This was much less ambiguous phrasing than was used in the 1980 referendum, when voters were asked to approve the opening of negotiations with Ottawa Quebec to become politically sovereign while enjoying a form of close economic association.

They were promised they would be consulted again before any substantial step was taken, but even with those safeguards 60 per cent of the voters rejected the proposal to start such talks. Mr Levesque then won the 1981 election by promising that the issue of independence would not be raised during the next Parliament.

Most commentators believe that the separatist vote has never risen above 25 per cent, but half of the old Levesque Cabinet refused to accept this. In November, when Mr Levesque showed himself determined to hold the special convention, seven ministers led by the Finance Minister, Mr Jacques Parizeau, resigned.

The strain of this Cabinet crisis, and other events including the storming last summer of the National Assembly by an army of young people who shot and killed three people, has exhausted Mr Levesque.

He returned from a holiday in Barbados last week and within two days had gone into

hospital for a check-up complaining of dizziness.

He passed the tests and intended to stay in politics long enough, as his rival Pierre Trudeau did, to collect his old age pension. At 62 he has three years to go, but the curtains are likely to close on him after tomorrow's convention.

From the declared views of the 1,500 delegates at the time they were selected for the convention, there is little doubt that he will win a majority to expunge the earlier resolution. But he will also carry the odium of the orthodox Quebec separatists.

Torture ends in hidden graves

From Mike Reid in Lima

Sixteen bodies found in mass graves near Ayacucho, the centre of the Peruvian armed forces counter-insurgency campaign against Sendero Luminoso (Shining Path) guerrillas, showed signs of torture.

The graves were found after an anonymous tip-off to state attorneys in Ayacucho, 360 miles south-east of Lima. One grave close to the town of Huanta, contained five bodies. Eleven, including those of several children, were found near the village of Huamanga. The victims had been bound and their hands were tied. All apparently were stabbed to death.

The discovery of more graves is an embarrassment for the Government of President Fernando Belaúnde.

When 50 bodies were discovered near Huanta last August, the grave contained guerrillas killed in action and buried by their comrades. But the attorney-general's office has since opened charges of murder against the head of the machine unit based in Huanta.

The security forces are accused by the human rights groups of being responsible for the "disappearance" of more than a thousand civilians in the past two years in the Ayacucho area.

March of protest

By Jonathan Steele

Beardor's three main trade union organisations have organised a march on Parliament a week after a two-day general strike ended with six dead and hundreds injured. The demonstrations, against what the unions say is the most vigorous protest since the rightwing Government of Mr Leon Febrer Cordero took power in August.

Mr Febrer Cordero, who campaigned with promises to curtail land reform and run the economy on a strictly free-market principles, has said the price rises were needed to cut the projected budget deficit by a third.

US record on rights 'deplorable'

From our Correspondent in Washington

President Reagan's record on civil rights was described yesterday as deplorable by the president of the National Urban League, Mr John Jacob. He urged the President to take "a handful of small steps that could begin to heal the breach between his Administration and black people."

The league, an established black civil rights group, has described in its annual report the condition of black Americans as grim. But it sees some signs of hope.

Among steps recommended in the report were presidential support for a civil rights bill now before Congress, repeal of US policy towards South Africa, and a moratorium on budget cuts in programmes that help the poor. Mr Jacob also urged President Reagan to meet leaders of the black community.

The release of the report and Mr Jacob's comments came a day after Mr Reagan met a small group of black business executives and representatives of grass roots organisations to discuss a possible agenda for black progress through self-help rather than government aid.

Mr Jacob said there was more of an attitude of self-reliance among blacks — a new emphasis on defining their own problems and devising their own solutions. But without the Government and the private sector fully involved, the cycle of pain and poverty would not be broken.



A soldier stands by as people in Kingston, Jamaica, inspect a car destroyed in this week's riots. Four people have died and about 20 have been injured in the unrest sparked by fuel price rises. Security forces in armoured personnel carriers patrolled the streets of the capital and removed roadblocks yesterday.

Missing persons arouse profit motive

From Alex Brummer in Washington

A rapid rise in the number of missing children in the United States is fostering a new national industry aimed at locating lost persons. The latest addition to the industry is a new magazine in Illinois, People Finders, whose current edition carries over 50 pages of advertisements for missing people of all ages.

Greatest public attention is being focused on the missing children. It is estimated that tens of thousands of children disappear from their homes each year. In a country as vast

as the US, when children can disappear in a matter of hours, parents acting alone have an almost impossible task locating them.

A new effort is underway through the Washington-based National Centre for Missing and Exploited Children to recover and identify more of the missing children on the official lists.

Private enterprise has joined the cause. In Whitewater, Wisconsin, a dairy carries pictures of two missing Chicago children on its milk cartons each day; photo-processors in Kansas and Missouri are distributing pictures of missing children in stamped-address envelopes; and local television stations now flash pictures of missing children on their screens in a harrowing new feature of their daily news programmes.

The first magazine to seek a profit from the upsurge is People Finders, launched by Blair Hallenstein, a veteran of the publishing industry and such magazines as Time.

While many of the advertisements are from missing adult relatives and friends, the magazine also carries, as a "public service," lists and photographs provided by the national centre in Washington and police departments around the country.

Mr Hallenstein said yesterday that his next magazine will run to some 60 pages. He detects increasing interest from private detectives looking for new business.

Among the difficulties is the existence of hundreds of different police authorities across the country and the lack of a central register of missing children, although the Washington centre now acts as a clearing house dealing with the authorities.

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For application forms and further particulars please contact Gill Turner on St. Helens 52120 or Debbie Oulton on 52129 or call at the Chief Executive's Department, Town Hall. Please return completed forms to the Personnel Services Officer, Chief Executive's Department, Town Hall, St. Helens.

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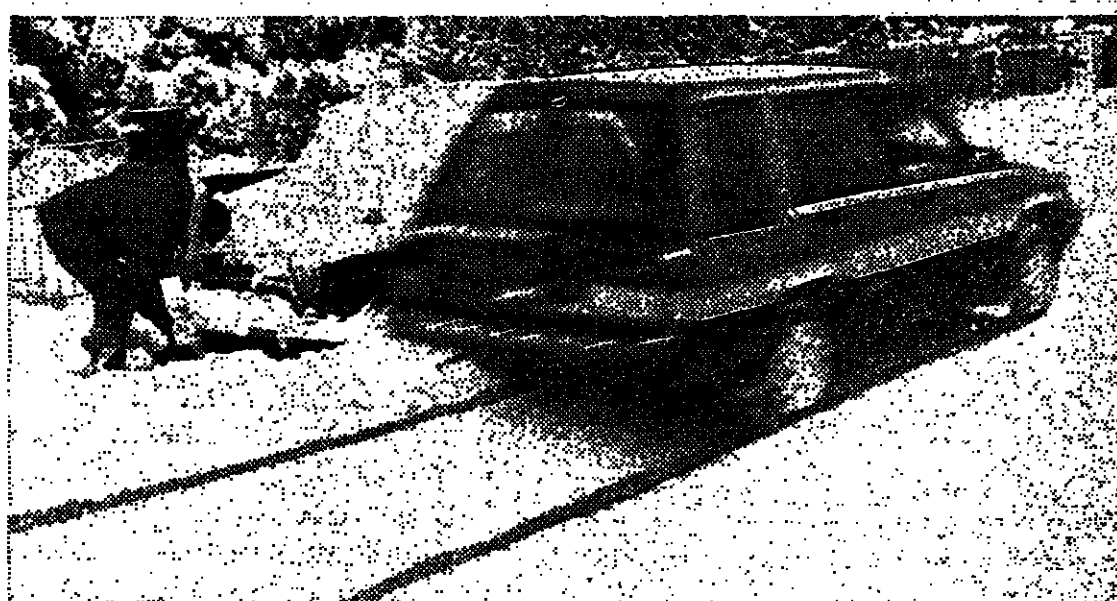
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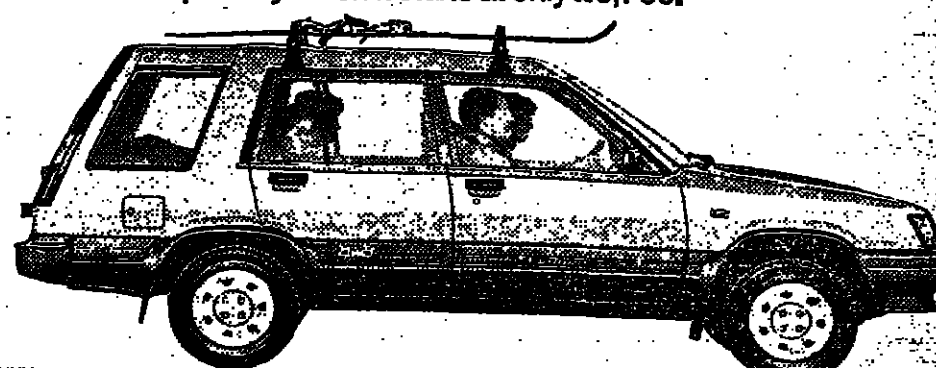
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Muslims leaving a mosque in Kuala Lumpur. Will the hard-liners prevail?

The new Islam signals danger in paradise

Malaysia's multi-cultural calm has been unbroken since 1969. But Muslim fundamentalism threatens that tranquillity. RICHARD GOTT reports.

THE STRENGTH and power of the Muslim revival, so much a feature of the rest of the Islamic world, is now much in evidence in Malaysia. Support for radical Islam has grown so quickly that it threatens to play havoc with the country's political system — and with its whole future as a multi-ethnic state.

I was first forcibly made aware of it as a significant phenomenon in the course of a meeting held in a provincial university. A veiled young woman in black came to the rostrum to denounce Western feminism. "I like to wear the hijab," she said. "I use it in my defence. I feel safe behind it. I feel very independent." It soon became clear that this was no isolated phenomenon. She was speaking for her generation of Muslim students.

The hijab as worn in Malaysia is a veil that goes over the head and shoulders but leaves the oval of the face uncovered. Not unlike the garb of a Christian nun, it gives the wearer — in the eyes at least of a Western male — a somewhat saintly, even seductive, look. It certainly appears less sinister than the defiant chador of the Iranian revolution, with its vizzed echo of Norman armour-plating. And it is practical, no obstacle to participating in modern urban life — as the veiled women on motorbikes testify, weaving their way through the heavy traffic of Penang or Kuala Lumpur.

More significantly, the veil is becoming fashionable. In a country of extraordinary complexity and importance — anti-Western, anti-consumerist — the Malay women of Malaysia, particularly the educated ones, are turning to Islam. And they are subscribing not just to the tolerant observances of the Sunni sect that have long characterised life and worship in the Malay archipelago, but to the new fundamentalism springing up all over the Islamic world that has its origins in Khomeini's Iran. In multi-ethnic Malaysia, it is a phenomenon

of potentially cataclysmic dimensions.

For a country of 14 million people where different races mix but do not mingle, Malaysia is astonishingly peaceful and good-humoured. Yet this gentle paradise is poised permanently above a precipice. Unlike so many Third World countries, overt violence is at a minimum. People expect to get home safely in the evenings. There is no great display of soldiers and police in the streets.

But this calm atmosphere, this intensely agreeable feeling of amity that it engenders, is only surface. It is based on a strange consensus that has been long established and enforced — and is not now discussed. Indeed it is not allowed to be discussed.



Women are giving up traditional Malay dress, like this, and taking to the veil.

Under the Constitutional Amendment and Sedition Act of February, 1971, all sensitive political issues are removed from the realm of public discussion. Even in parliament there are certain matters to do with the country's racial balance that MPs are not allowed to raise. Under the consensus, the Chinese 35 per cent of the population retain as much economic power as their inherited skills and abilities allow them to — which is a lot. But the Malays (45 per cent) have entrenched themselves as the political rulers.

For 14 years the system has survived without challenge,

but the balance of the aspirations of the two groups is never far from breakdown. If you are a Malay, you tend to shrug your shoulders at the thought of this structural imbalance. If you are Chinese, you nurse a certain lasting dissatisfaction.

The present consensus is accepted, not just because the government carries an iron fist within its velvet glove, but because there is a folk memory of the price of breakdown. Knowledge of the precipice is always present. In May, 1969, after elections in which the Malay-dominated ruling coalition received a reduced majority, communal rioting broke out in Kuala Lumpur on a scale that gave the lie to those who believed that Malaysia was a model of inter-ethnic harmony and cooperation.

"Malaysia's most significant achievement," an American academic (James W. Gould) had written that year, "is in racial cooperation." The country, he went on, "seems to have discovered a way of permitting three ancient cultures to continue their great traditions but to work together in harmony."

In May 1969 this seemed a somewhat roseate and romantic view. Riot, arson, and sudden death were followed by curfew, the setting up of refugee centres, the Chinese, and the establishment of a state of emergency. The actual death toll was not large, a few hundred, but the event left a lasting image of what could happen if the consensus were again to collapse.

And herein lies the importance and significance of Islam. For the Muslim revival and resurgence is eroding the power of the increasingly secular Malay elite — for whom Islam has never been more than a social and cultural veneer.

Police, the challenge to the government comes from PAS, the Parti Islam Se-Malaysia, the party that seeks to establish an Islamic state. If PAS, with its fundamentalist message, were seriously to split the Malay vote (which at present goes mostly to UMNO, the ruling United Malay National Organisation), the Chinese could theoretically once again become arbiters of the future of the nation.

Even the snuff of such a possibility would be enough to rekindle the flames ignited in 1969. But the appeal of Islam is extraordinarily powerful.

In one celebrated case recently, given much public-

ity in the government press, a religious teacher in Selangor told children to destroy the family television set, purveyor of infidel propaganda. It would be right, he said, for the children to execute their parents should they be prevented from carrying out his order. In such circumstances beheading one's parents would not be regarded as a sin.

In any society this would be the voice of extremism, but in Malaysia it is a voice that increasingly has followers, and a voice that the government cannot altogether ignore, as the challenge becomes more open and more politicised. Fundamentalist zealots can be laughed at, or locked up, but what of the preacher who denounces the Malay government itself as infidel? What if the people are taught to believe that it is a sin to vote for UMNO?

The government's reaction has been to emphasise more strongly its own enthusiasm for Islam, and to try to co-opt the more moderate leaders of the Muslim revival. One of these is Anwar Ibrahim, formerly the fiery head of the Islamic youth movement and now the Minister of Agriculture. Ibrahim knows what a difficult course he has to follow: proclaiming Islamic values on the one hand, imprisoning Islamic extremists without trial on the other. But what else can we do, he asks? "If they appear in court, 20,000 people would turn up, shouting 'God is Great'."

So Ibrahim is now a moderate. "Muslims should see Islam as a source," he argues, implying that there might be other valid sources of indigenous values. Malaysia needs "to objectively evaluate and select." And he takes issue with those fundamentalists who wholly turn their backs on the West. "It is absurd to imagine that after hundreds of years Western civilisation needs to be rejected in toto."

The difficulty for the government — and indeed for any kind of secular opposition — is that the Islamic revival has subsumed a number of other traditions. Often seen in the West as a resurgence of the past, Islam is also embraced by those who might at other times have been of the Left. "No one's interested in socialism any more," said one old socialist professor. "They're obsessed with Islam."

So if you're a radical Malay student with the usual Third World concerns about cultural imperialism, American imperialism, and government

corruption, the chances are that you'll see Islam as a vehicle for change — and if you're a woman you'll be wearing the veil.

All this leaves out a significant aspect of Malaysian life. As Anwar Ibrahim points out when discussing the zealots, "these so-called religious leaders are oblivious to the fact that this is a multi-racial, multi-ethnic society. There are people here of all races and all religions."

In particular, there are the Chinese, too large a group to be dismissed as "a minority." The Chinese, too, are not immune from the sense of cultural nationalism that is affecting the Malays. For although there is Chinese representation in the government (through the MCA, the Malaysian Chinese Association), the Chinese as a whole have little political power.

A small segment of the older generation has been satisfied with retaining considerable economic power, but most of the younger generation have to struggle with their Malay contemporaries who were awarded structural advantages under the post-1969 carve-up. As the young Malays turn to Islam, so the young Chinese have begun to rediscover their own roots.

Symptomatic of this development has been the row over Bukit China, a controversy that could do immense damage to the government. Bukit China — Chinese Hill — is an old Chinese graveyard in Malacca.

But Bukit China is not an old graveyard. It is the largest Chinese graveyard in the world outside China. According to legend it was once the residence of a beautiful princess from the Ming court, Hang Li Po. She arrived in Malacca in the fifteenth century.

Ambivalent though the Chinese may be about death, they do not like anyone monkeying around with the graves of their ancestors. Which is exactly what the government has been planning to do. Bukit China is a prime development site in the middle of town — and what could be more economically desirable than to cover it over with steel and concrete?

Yet not everyone sees things that way. Local and national opposition has been mobilised to prevent it happening, and if plans to develop the graveyard go ahead, it could threaten the position of the middle class Chinese party in the government, bring electoral gains to more radical Chinese parties,

MALAYSIA FILE

At the 1980 census Malaysia's 13,745,241 inhabitants were spread through the 13 states of the federation.



83 per cent lived in the peninsula: 54 per cent of those were indigenous Malays (bumiputras), 35 per cent Chinese, and 10 per cent Indian (from India, Pakistan, or Bangladesh). In 1983 the population was estimated at 14,744,000.

Most bumiputras are Muslim, rural and work in traditional agriculture. The Chinese are mainly Taoist or Buddhist, urban, and have the major roles in the more modern industrial and commercial sectors.

and destroy the consensus erected with such difficulty 15 years ago.

For many years, even during the colonial period, the common interest of the elite groups of the various races — Malay, Chinese, Tamil — allowed Malays to avoid the communal tensions that have afflicted other Third World states with a multi-ethnic population. Only during "the Emergency" and the period which immediately preceded it was the stability of the country seriously threatened.

In the past two decades an impressive record of economic growth, a diversified export sector, and skilful political management has kept the growing divergence between the various communities from getting out of hand.

But in universities and among the inter-racial intellectual community there is considerable concern about the future. "We are not predicting an inevitable racial war," write two university lecturers, Ishak Shari and K. S. Jomo, in an article on development and inequality in post-colonial Malaysia, "or even a conflagration of the May 13 (1969) variety." It is quite conceivable, they suggest, "that ethnic tension and conflict will remain of the 'cold war' type, that is, without necessarily erupting."

But present trends, they fear, are not encouraging. "It is obvious that in such a situation a single spark will be enough to set off an explosion."

The spark could be ignited by debate over an old Chinese graveyard, or by the turbulent growth of radical Islam.



THIRD COLUMN

Moving towards Managua

Nicaragua today has its first democratically elected National Assembly, 12 legal political parties, a human rights record which compares with the most secure democracies of Latin America, a 90 per cent literacy rate, an infant mortality rate of 70 per 1,000 live births, and a basic food programme that has ended hunger. And all that has been achieved in spite of a terrorist war waged by the US-sponsored "contras" and in defiance of economic sanctions intended to choke the political life out of the country.

Of course the shanty town barrios still abound, the road system is rudimentary in many parts of the country, there are shortages of consumer goods, and the international debt is massive. The national newspaper, *La Prensa*, complains of excessive censorship. The Archbishop, unlike some of his bishops and most of his priests, is raging against the "Children of Sandino".

But Nicaragua has achieved in five years what other countries have achieved in decades or even centuries.

For some people in Washington, though, fortune is not all. Nicaragua is already half way down the road to serfdom, with a one-way ticket to Moscow via Havana. Senior Reaganites accuse the Sandinista government of instigating a totalitarian state and destabilising Central America. They provide financial and military backing for the Contras, and wage economic warfare in the guise of imposing a total embargo on Nicaragua from the IMF, the World Bank, and the Inter-American Development Bank.

Unless it is reversed, that policy will be a self-fulfilling prophecy, as desperation drives Nicaragua away from the present route of pluralist democracy, a mixed economy and non-alignment, into the arms of those less committed to the democratic road than the Sandinistas.

That is why Britain does no favours to freedom by its tame acceptance of the political line of the US Administration. That is why we need to question the premises on which American policy is based — their assertion that Nicaragua intends to export the popular revolution of 1979 and threaten other states in Central America; their belief that the struggle against the FSLN in El Salvador is sustained only by arms shipments from Managua; their insistence that Moscow manipulates the Sandinista government and their contention that Managua offers a strategic threat to the security interests of the United States.

The realities of the poverty which retards progress in Nicaragua, and the unambiguous commitment of the Sandinistas to national independence and social democracy, contradicts all those allegations. The present paranoia which now rules foreign policy towards Nicaragua could, of course, mould a different reality in that country. Nicaraguans, like everyone else, must live in freedom. But if Nicaragua does slide towards the Soviets, the real responsibility will not lie with the Sandinistas, but with those who don't want to go in that direction, or even in Moscow where they can't pull effectively unless Washington pushes continually.

Our government should see that, and act upon it quickly, both in the advice which it must offer to the Reagan Administration, and in the aid and investment which it could offer to Nicaragua. It has the means to succour democracy in a country where rulers and people want it, and the means to foster stability in a region which desperately needs it. And if it can show favours to Chile and commercial policies, any excuse offered for denying support to Nicaragua on the grounds of the inadequacy of its democracy is pathetic in its perversity.

The British Government should also look at Nicaraguan democracy for itself. It may see a first-class parliamentary row in the new National Assembly, as I did. It may bump into a Social Christian Party campaigner canvassing for funds and membership in a cantina, as I did. It may see the way in which leaders of the Democratic Conservative and Independent Liberal Parties warmly applauded Daniel Ortega, the new President of Nicaragua, when he gave a warning in his inauguration speech that any invasion of the country would be met "by thousands of Sandino's puppies." Those experiences, perhaps even more than the formalities of a multi-party system, demonstrate the nature of Nicaraguan democracy.

Neil Kinnock

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NORTH SOUTH

Cuban heels

INTELLECTUALS are difficult allies for revolutionaries. The individual egos demand more special treatment than the hurly-burly of social upheaval permits to most. Improper conduct, a crudely anti-Castro propaganda film which opened at the ICA cinema in London last week, displays some of their worst — pretensions, soft boring. Extraordinarily, from Time magazine and the Village Voice to Le Monde and Gai Pied, this galaxy of talking heads among the potted plants of New York and Paris apartments, has been hailed as a landmark in truth-telling about Cuba's revolution.

Made by Nestor Almendros and Orlando Jimenez Leal, it is less a film about Cuba than

the tales of a handful of bitter ex-Cubans from the 1960s, intercut with archive film of Fidel.

Those counter-revolutionaries and they others, including thousands of homosexuals, mostly left Cuba for the West where they have become the source of the current vogue for disillusion with Cuba among some intellectuals.

Susan Sontag represents them on this film, talking of militarisation and, above all, the revolution's non-acceptance of homosexuality. Her criticism of the puritanism of Cuba will no doubt be popular among Western liberals, but, like this film, it is hardly relevant to the main issue.

Skull centre

SOLDIERS, skulls, and vultures are the dominant themes of Ugandan painting — not only from the years of Idi Amin. The Africa Centre in King Street, Covent



The Puncture, by W. Sseremba. Garden, has this week opened a month-long exhibition of paintings done by the Makerere University community of artists over the last 25 years. The brutality and corruption of military and civilian leaders depicted in these paintings have reduced Makerere to a shadow of what it was. The Africa Centre is organising the sale of pictures for a special Makerere art fund.

Horse's mouth

A NEW generation of historians is starting to explore the relatively uncharted history of South Africa's unknown millions: the blacks who have made the country prosperous.

Two books have just been published about a couple of those faceless millions. Both were gallbirds and both have long since died, but their experiences explain much about South African history.

One was accused of losing a horse, belonging to his white master, even though it was not in his care. This incident forced him into flight, and a career in crime and resistance to white authority that has made him a legend. The other was accused of murder and sentenced to death: while waiting to be hanged he was converted to Christianity.

The Small Matter of a Horse, by Charles van Onselen, and The Conversion, by Peter Delius, both published by Ravan Press, PO Box 3113, Braamfontein, Johannesburg.

FILM festivals in India are invariably controversial, argumentative affairs about which it is generally assumed that no good can be written without twice the weight of bad. The mistrust of authority in India is such that the benefit of doubt is seldom accorded. Someone, somewhere has cheated, done favours or been just plain stupid. The Delhi festival this year has proved no exception to that rule.

It started off on quite the wrong foot by introducing on stage not only a fairly distinguished jury, headed by Jeanne Moreau, but also a huge assemblage of Bombay movie stars, each more fat and succulent-looking than the one before, while some of India's most distinguished directors were left fuming in their seats.

That was not a very good idea. Nor was it very astute to put the 21-film Panorama of new Indian films into a cinema whose quality of projection had clearly not been checked beforehand, and which made a foggy mockery of the very movies which the National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) had painstakingly financed. Since the festival is an offshoot of that organisation, it seemed much like cutting off one's nose to spite one's face.

The truth is that Delhi is not a film city like Bombay or Madras. It is the home of the bureaucracy, and on these occasions it shows. Nor have the international films been particularly well chosen. Neil Jordan's *The Company of Wolves*, for example, was brought over but not screened officially, and of the 20 or so Third World films shown only one, the *London Film Festival*, only a few have been accorded screenings.

That seems a dereliction of duty by a festival that prides itself on leading the Third World, though one does have to admit that there are good Latin-American and black

A scene from Adoor Gopalakrishnan's *Face To Face*

Derek Malcolm reports on an outstanding new feature by the director of *Rat Trap* at the Indian Film Festival in New Delhi

The god who was found wanting

American cinema retrospectives and tributes too to Visconti and Imamura.

The Indian Panorama, however, did elicit some interesting new work. The best seemed to me to be Adoor Gopalakrishnan's *Mukhamam Face To Face*. Gopalakrishnan, who comes from Trivandrum in the south, has now made four films, the third of which, *Rat Trap*, won the British Film Institute's award, given annually for the "most original and imaginative" new film shown at the National Film Theatre during its year.

Those who doubt the usefulness of that award can rest assured that it helped Gopalakrishnan tremendously, and *Face To Face* has now become one of the talking points of the festival.

It has, like all his films, a highly refined and personal style which has confused many, since it is specifically about the highly important split in the Indian Communist Party in 1964.

The split was reflected all over the world and was fought out with particular intensity in Kerala, where the film is set and where the CP was voted into power in 1964. Every detail of the film, on the political level at least, is said to be accurate. But in fact this is the story of a fictional leader who suddenly begins to feel that he has nothing more to offer.

He starts to have stomach cramps and to drink and finally withdraws completely from his former life, refusing to speak even to his closest political associates and falling frequently into deep sleep. The point of the film is not that he is a disillusioned communist, though he may be, but that he simply wishes, as a man, to stop. And the second point Gopalakrishnan makes is that his supporters cannot accept it. The need for leaders sometimes overrides the impossibility of leadership. Someone has to be made god-like, even if he isn't.

The film is not only a deeply personal statement but an intensely introspective one. It has of course been seen as some sort of indirect criticism of the CP, though it is nothing of the sort. What is so impressive about it is not only its original subject matter but the fastidious style with which it is made.

Nothing else matches up to this, but Ketan Mehta's *Holi* (Festival Of Bengal) was an entrant from Bengal of more than usual interest, an Indian attempt at a youth movie that tries for much more than the expected.

The students at an Indian College want a holiday during the spring festival of Holi, and consider strike action. But everything goes wrong with their plans, and the putative revolt turns sour. That is the story. But what is impressive about the film is its sometimes over-elaborate technical construction and the way it refuses to go the obvious way.

The students are presented not as idealists reacting against a repressive and hypocritical educational establishment but as young people who have gone beyond that into a kind of devil-may-care anarchy on the one hand, and a determination to make money on the other.

There are thus many analogies to the situation in the West and the film, with its gaunt, queer-bashing finale, pushes you first one way and then the other, for and against its young protagonists. Mehta, whose first feature was the much-liked *Bhuvan Shasti*, is clearly a director to reckon with.

Rats come out to play

Robin Denslow on Bob Geldof's latest album and the other rock releases

BOB GELDOF was once best known as leader of a group called The Boomtown Rats, but now of course, he's a celebrity for his quite remarkable work in raising millions for Ethiopia through the Band Aid record. This week he returned from Ethiopia to find Do They Know It's Christmas had broken into the American top ten, while continuing to prove popular here.

Geldof now has another record he needs to promote, which might prove more of a commercial struggle. His own band have not been wildly successful in recent years, but The Boomtown Rats in the *Long Grass* (Phonogram) could, with a little luck and

the help of a badly-needed hit single, put them back in favour. Geldof can be a good song-writer, as he showed with *I Hate Mondays*, as well as the Band Aid song (which sold not merely because of all the super stars on it, and there are some good songs hidden behind the brass, crashing production work here).

The Rats' last album, *V Deep*, released three years ago, was patchy, experimental, and a commercial flop. The new LP starts with the new single, *A Hold Of Me*, which sets the tone with its clanking synths, followed by a solid chugging rhythm and almost a wall-of-sound production, behind Geldof's cry

of defiance against unnamed oppressors.

Several of the songs that follow are even better, though Geldof slips into a Bowie-like croon at times, as on the perusing *One Again* and *Another Sad Story*.

Elsewhere there's a brassy, jazzy riff to the dance piece *Tonight*, a touch of Springsteen exhilaration to the excellent *Hard Times*, and a touch of Sixties pop in the cheerful but crashing *An Ice In The Sun*. It is (as they used to say) an album that grows on you, and I hope it keeps the Rats in business. After his efforts of the past few weeks, Geldof certainly deserves it.

Akumbo: Akumbo (Forward Sounds). A varied, theatrical, cut-price debut from a duo that consists of a powerful black singer known as Deb'bor, who was brought up in the Bronx and worked in theatre in San Francisco, and white Mancunian instrumentalist Andy Wilson. They've obviously had considerable experience playing at alternative cabaret or political shows, for their songs are a strong, slick blend of blues, African percussion or rap that sound as if they'd be even more effective live.

Deb'bor's theatrical talk-over, declamatory style, is most effective on *Waiting*, and she sings strongly at the unaccompanied start of

Mother Seaside, the story of a never-recognised Jamaican nursing heroine of the Crimean war, that turns into a celebration as Andy's keyboards and guitar are mixed in.

George Benson: 20/20 (Warners). Back in the early Sixties, Benson was an excellent jazz guitarist who worked with the likes of Brother Jack McDuff and then Miles Davis and Herbie Hancock. His tragedy is that he is cursed with a wonderful, smooth and relaxed voice, and since recording the cool and classy jazz-soul "cross-over" album *Breezin'* in the early Seventies, he's played less and less guitar,

sung more and more, and gradually become very rich and very predictable.

To be fair, this record is not that bad, but it is very dull for (unlike the jazz days) Benson now takes all the easy money. There are lush, synthesised rhythmic pieces, and lush synthesised ballads, all treated with classy, relaxed vocals.

Hank Williams Jr.: Are You Sure Hank Done It This Way (Warners). Like Julian Lennon, Randall Hank Williams had the problem of following in the footsteps of a legendary father, and like Julian (so far, at least) he has managed, remarkably well, despite almost killing

himself in a climbing accident ten years ago.

This 16-track album is a good, rousing country-rock, ball-room selection that only fails because of its obsession with the original Hank Williams. He is mentioned in half the songs on the first side (including those by Wayne Jennings and Kris Kristofferson), while in his own song, *My Father's Son*, he stresses the family tradition just a little too often. The younger Williams's style is influenced by Charlie Daniels and hands like Marshall Tucker and the Allmans, and the album is a heavy country version of his father's favourites, like *Honky Tonkin*.

And happy they obviously were, when we met them at their church wedding and at the party where the two mums chatted away in the friendliest fashion. Joe worked in the probation service, Glennis in educational welfare, and they sounded suitably devoted to their careers. They were very much ahead, they would deal with them successfully.

An understated, skilful little programme, edited by the producer, Frances Acheson, so that you had a sense of the "past": with babies squalling, the rustling wedding dress, and the traditional, embarrassing wedding speech; the snatches of comment and greetings provided an even stronger sense of the attitudes and characters of the people. It was, in fact, told us more (and certainly more realistically and warmly) about relationships between black and white than many a fervent and well-regarded studio discussion. I'm glad that Glennis and Joe let us listen.

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TELEVISION

Nancy Banks-Smith

The Mistress

YOU CAN quite see why Felicity Kendal was chosen to take the curse of *The Mistress* (BBC-2), a new comedy series by Carla Lane. It's the wholeness, she can't help it. Buttons could take her course in antenatal. She is all bubblegum and Cole Porter remarked appreciatively, Mickey Mouse.

She reminds me of those little girls who sit opposite you on the Tube, looking like Lillian Gish. If you set fire to their little cotton socks, butter wouldn't melt in their mouths. "I'll have one of those," you think mistily and that's when you discover your mistake.

In danger of straining something to prove this mistress is a pure puppet, Carla Lane gives her a flower shop somewhere jolly bosky and a little girl's menagerie of house-trained beasts.

Shred coloured cat. Little girls do have peculiar power over cats until, according to a vet I know, puberty. "They bring in these great slavering suppurating beasts cutting curses. They just say 'Who's a big silly' and the thing rolls over on its back and starts purring."

I nevertheless drew in my breath, bit my tongue when Miss Kendal actually kissed her cat. This conduct seemed to me to verge on the territory of Madeline Bassett, the premier pig in English literature and according to Bertie Wooster, *The Woman That God Forgot*.

Fortunately Jane Asher, exquisitely cool and slim as the Norse god, scored a magnificent own goal by loading a dishwasher wearing rubber gloves—then insisting on handcream.

The archetypally awful wife in *The Mistress* is one, Nancy. When love was all, Nancy used to wait in the hall with a little pink thing on "but now she's about as soft and gentle as rabies." It is typical of the care showered on this series that as Felicity Kendal waits for her lover, puzzling the while over the fecundity of her rabbits, she is indeed wearing a little pink off-one-shoulder thing.

It bubbles along brightly but now and then there are the lines which seem to belong to someone rather less girlish, somewhat curlier at the corners: "Oh, God!" "No good calling God. He's out a lot."

Unexpectedly sober, tolling notes sounded in Robert Bowie's voice when he described in Talking Proper (Forty Minutes, BBC-2) how he lost his regional accent at drama school. Or how it was forcibly stolen from him.

"I had to work very hard on the Nottingham accent but the world was changing. If an actor is moving the audience vowel sounds don't matter much. There were a number of actors with the strength of character to retain their accents. Albert Finney kept his identity. I found the backbone of my identity had been interfered with. I was acting a role in life too, and this caused a weakness of power and confidence in performing at first."

Bowie's accent, like Eliza Doolittle's, is better than the real thing. Now I come to think of it, his career has been built on characters who are slightly spurious, faintly foreign. In a word which was written on a blackboard during a meeting of The Queen's English Society, he comes across as *Suavo*.

I perfectly sympathise: I too was closeted (in a closet) at school and made to recite, "It was eight bells ringing and the morning watch was done. And the gunners' lads were singing as they polished every gun" until I was fit to mingle. I think I could live cheerfully enough without the backbone of my identity if only I could forget that bloody awful poem by bloody Newbolt I shouldn't bloody wonder.

BARBICAN/RADIO 3

Hugo Cole

Hymnen

THE FIRST hymn performance of Hymnen in its fullest version brought

together the BBC Orchestra under Eotvos (in part three) four vocal soloists including Markus and Stockhausen in parts one, two and four, with the original quadrophonic tape. More than two hours long, the work benefits hugely from the greater variety of sounds and higher tension generated by the presence of a live orchestra and the expansion of the musical apparatus to a scale that matches the grandeur of the whole conception.

The projection of Stockhausen's vision of a better world in which the national anthems of many nations meet in a sort of musical accord.

This is to stretch the word accord to its limits. In the third (orchestral) register, tape sometimes seems to voice ribald comments on the orchestra's most serious utterances, and vice versa when the tape starts up with the American anthem. There is also an element of leger in which fragments of the anthems are thrown around, in massed-choir versions or crude and brassy or forcibly stolen from him.

More often, the anthems are deflected and re-composed so far that we no longer recognise sources. The starting of the fourth region, based on the final chord of the Swiss anthem consists of a huge adagio as sombre as *Sibelius* with its slow moving harmonies, and pulsating ostination.

The BBC orchestra played with great concentration and even eloquence—all the greater because Stockhausen gives them many definite and striking musical gestures and orchestrates, even in the conventional sense, with so much assurance.

MARKUS's trumpet part was, in fact, a good deal less essential to the music than that of the BBC's excellent first trumpet (Gareth Bimson) in region three. They do however provide the necessary focus for attention in the great final climax, where all four retreat behind a huge tamtam to beat it furiously, perhaps representing humanity besieged in a threatening world. Whatever the intention, the whole of this region reaffirms Stockhausen's stature as spell binder.

SADLER'S WELLS

Naseem Khan

Wind In

The Willows

IN THE past Wind In The Willows, in A.A. Milne's perennial Toad Of Toad Hall version, has been rather like



Melvyn Hayes, Terry Scott, Donald Hewlett and Patrick Cargill. Sadlers Wells. Picture by Douglas Jeffery

birthdays, something more to look forward to than actually to enjoy. Somewhere beneath the old-fashioned fustian the book gleamed, but insubstantial and passing. Now it is out of copyright and fair game for all. Hopefully this will mean many stabs at this evocative book, for Willis Hall's new view of the river bank sadly offers much the same features as before.

It is of course charmingly done, from Rat's first appearance rowing his HMS Rodent down Finlay James's lyrical green river to the grand finale in Toad Hall and the walloping of the weasels and ferrets and stoats. Few hearts could remain unmoved by the preposterous Toad (Terry Scott) off, poop-poop, in his purloined motor, or homely Mole (Melvyn Hayes) and mainly Rat (Patrick Cargill). Willis Hall follows the book as closely as A.A. Milne did, with many of the same omissions—for example, Mole's poignant return to his dusty little home, with its cockleshell edged garden and statue of Garibaldi. The high spots will still delight unspoiled adults. The music by Denis King is jolly and likeable and forgettable.

But someone some day, and I only hope I live to see it, will take this lovely book by the scruff of the neck and shake out a theatrical version that gets far closer to the spirit of the original than either this or the Milne version manages. If the Royal Shakespeare Company can do it for Peter Pan, then there's surely hope yet.

BLOOMSBURY

John Fordham

Moire Music

TREVOR WATTS's *Moire Music*, the Hill Street Blues of modern improvisation, is a justifying collection of musical events incessantly barge into each other and imbue an entire anthology of little stories, resolved and unresolved, with seething life, is now on tour in Britain.

Its opening concert on the Contemporary Music Network, mixed the virtues of the imaginative (an untutored parallel development of the cyclical constructions of Glass and Reich, rich collective interplay, excellent soloing from the likes of Watts, Simon Picard and Lol Coxhill) with the not unfamiliar drawbacks of hyperactive percussion, too much exposure of simple themes not always scattered by the multi-layering effect of plugging them out of phase, and lack of dynamic variety.

The band sports four saxophones, two violins, bass, two drummers and piano. The result is therefore, a somewhat spindly, top-end sound, and what spinners while talking about early youth. Another section involves working with a chair while a recorded voice describes efforts to depollute the River Thames.

What Leabhart seems to be aiming for is a corporal shorthand to express a string of poetic fragments, matching words and body images. Sometimes, however, it is

horns with the bulk of the variations being based on the busy, bristling intersection between the two. Liam Genocky and conga player Nana Tsiboe. Genocky played with a crisp and effortless energy, resolving phrases on swishing symbol patterns.

The music shifted imperceptibly into an ascending five-note pattern (Watts is ingenious at devising means by which improvisational frameworks develop without fuss) over which Simon Picard slipped a gravely tenor solo. Watts at this stage was finding it harder to connect. Genocky began playing with such furious intensity that the saxophonist was forced, like a cornered animal, into squealing desperately for space.

Some of the subsequent ensemble playing caught the bright, effervescent sound that this band has built a reputation on—the second piece, because performed in much looser rhythm, with its theme an exchange of mercurial soprano and violin phrases, set them soaring. It shortly became earthbound again during Lol Coxhill's first solo, wriggling over a fractured and bruising orchestral section that sounded like two completely unrelated marching bands colliding at an intersection. The upshot though—a passage of Coltrane-like horn laments—was delicious.

THE PLACE

Kenneth Rea

Thomas Leabhart

HOW I WAS Perplexed And What I Did About It, by the American mime Thomas Leabhart, begins with the artist demonstrating some Decroux-style movements, only to be interrupted by a voice-over suggestion that he should put on a costume ("You don't expect the audience to look at a leotard for an hour, do you?") and show a few slides.

From this witty opening, Leabhart launches into an autobiographical monologue, while performing a series of extraordinary routines. But perplexity sets in when these movements don't seem to have anything to do with the narrative. In one section he looks at a chair while talking about early youth. Another section involves working with a chair while a recorded voice describes efforts to depollute the River Thames.

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PURCELL ROOM

Hugh Canning

Roth Quartet

ODALINE de la Martinez, the Cuban-born conductor, has carved a niche for herself and her Ensemble L'Ontario on the British contemporary music scene. Her wide-ranging and radical programming, her creative gifts are considerably less familiar, though, so the young Roth Quartet's commissioning, with funds from the Arts Council, and performance of her first string quartet proved an intriguing, if not altogether invigorating, experience.

In her note, Ms Martinez outlined the problem posed by the weight of a long European tradition. She follows the established path or strike out on her own? Confidently, she affirms that her "own person" triumphed in the end. But it is whatever individuality the first movement might have contained was soon alloyed by repetitive use of material. Bartok meets the minimalists.

Nor did the backward-looking slow movements, the second distinguished by arching arpeggiated lines and the fourth by a recurrent bluesy chorale, suggest a triumph of heroic proportions over second Viennese School models. Still, the quartet is an attractive and eminently accessible piece which the Roths played with commitment.

The players showed their qualities, too, in Mendelssohn's lovely D major quartet of the Opus 44 set with an agile response to the surging momentum of the opening *Molto allegro*, the sinuous lyricism of the andante and the relentless agitation of the finale's insistent triplet motif.

And in Bartok's predominantly reflective chamber, characteristically tough, No. 2 quartet they gave a mature survey of the composer's stark, crazy panoramas.

Val Arnold-Forster on the radio week

Ring of success

WHATEVER the truth of the adage No News is Good News, radio is full of tales of general optimism. Not so much on the news front (remember that ill-fated Radio 3 series which tried to disprove that adage and become a compendium of ear-ache and little snippets of minor technological advance?) but in the many interviews and documentaries which tell of business, medical, or personal success.

Some are stories of instant conversion, like Ken Lancaster, featured in the recent *I'm Sorry, God!* (Radio 4), a former East End burglar and thug, who had been a determined member of his fellow human beings but who took to Christianity and changed his ways. A pity, really, that the interviewer Chris Stuart didn't take the opportunity (presumably a rare one) of asking the classic question: "Have you stopped beating your wife?" But Mr Lancaster had, and his wife was there to confirm it.

This week there was *A Wedding Portrait* in Black And White (Radio 4, Tuesday) in which the interviewer Wilfred Emmanuel Jones went to the wedding of Glenis, a white girl, and Joe, a black man, and met her at first not been too pleased about Joe's colour.

"She liked Joe," said Glenis. "I don't really think it's me mum's own personal feelings, I think she's worried about what her door-neighbours will say, and the family." But Glenis and Joe were in love: "My parents did not bring me up to be prejudiced," she said. "They've both got social consciences." Joe, mum, according to Joe, had said: "It would be nice if every race stuck to their own race... but that's not important, so long as you're happy."

And happy they obviously were, when we met them at their church wedding and at the party where the two mums chatted away in the friendliest fashion. Joe worked in the probation service, Glennis in educational welfare, and they sounded suitably devoted to their careers. They were very much ahead, they would deal with them successfully.

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STAGE GUARDIAN

Friday January 18 1985 13

A HEAVEN of iron... two
pieces of red cloud and stars
of gold. (Heaven: paid for a
torch to set the world on fire,
6d.)

You won't find anything
like that in the budget for the
National Theatre's cycle of
medieval mystery plays, com-
pleted now as Domesday joins
The Nativity and The Passion.
There are moments when you
do wonder what one of the
most sophisticated companies
in the world has to do with
these ancient spectacles of
Christian drama that spilled
out of the churches and into
the cobbled streets of York,
and Wakefield, and Coventry
in the streaky dawn of the
English theatre.

Here, one battery-powered
fork-lift truck, God for the use
of. These are now High-Tech
Mysteries, where Faith is
what you place in the
electrics.

Tony Harrison would reject
that view. Harrison took
material from several of the
Mystery cycles — from York,
Wakefield, Towneley, Con-
ventry — and made the present
five-hour version out of plays
that would have taken 10
hours to the story from the
Creation, through the life of
Christ to Domesday. The first
part, The Nativity, was first
put on in 1977. Domesday
enters the repertoire to-
morrow and the arch is finished.

When we talk about faith
in the Middle Ages being
simple, and its drama crude,
that's wrong. The drama
is more brilliantly written than
it's given credit for because
we have this idea of a simple
peasant faith. It's not like that
at all, it has great energy.
From broad farce to sermon
— they could encompass the
whole range.

"Those showbiz things, the
Middle Ages had them too,
you can see in the documents
what they paid for them.
Those moments create the
silence for the text. It's not
sugaring the pill — this drama
had the task of pleasing and
instructing at the same time.
We're lost that. Our plays of
instruction, political plays
— can end up being very
solemn."

There was nothing solemn
about the way the guild plays
mixed roistering with rever-
ence and admiration of their
skills: the mercers' pa-
geant offering a feast of
rich clothes, the carpenters
setting about the Cross like a
custom-built kitchen. The
cockpit of the Cottesloe in
their street, the audience
moves to the action rather
than the other way round.
Each character to his guild
Harrison says, "He is the
man who comes to read the
metre."

It may be galloping, ana-



Tony Harrison (right) picture by Garry Weaver;
and Karl Johnson as Jesus in Domesday, picture by
Douglas Jeffery

With Domesday due tomorrow
at the National Theatre the
adaptor, Tony Harrison, talks
to Hugh Hebert about the
mystery plays and his poetry

Mysteries of the metre reader

poets, or familiar lambs, but
you often notice most is the
thumping alliteration:
All the mirth that is made is
marked in me
The beams of my brighthood are
burning so bright
And so seemly in sight I myself I
now see,
Like a lord I am lifted to live in
the light.

They are some of Lucifer's
lines from the first scene of
the first play. Later the
rhythms and the alliteration
get subtler, but they are
always there, crashing out in
fiery hard-edged consonants
from the villains, lilting
softer sounds for the women.
When Harrison was first
sounded out about adapting
the mysteries, he told Bill
Bryden, the director through-
out this long and complex

collaboration, that he was
interested so long as he could
give God and Jesus Yorkshire
accents — the accents they
would have had in those
medieval pageants. These
are local northern classics
that had been taken away
from northerners and bet-
rayed, made genteel.

Metre, rhyme, alliteration
are Harrison's tools,
unfashionable as the adze or
spokeshave. They are what
brought him to the National
in the first place when they
were looking for someone
who could do rhymed cou-
plets, to translate Moliere's
Le Misanthrope, 1973. After
that, Racine's Phaedra Bri-
tannica, and into the Mys-
teries.

Their beefy quality got into
Harrison's version of the



Orestes. Where the English
plays kept their own archaic
words, for the Greek
tragedies he invented new
ones — sometimes so many in
a single speech they could
scarcely crowd through the
holes in the actors' masks:
Godgrudge and mangrudge gan-
ging together
Shepherded the blood-bride
surely to Troy.
Delayed counterblow to the sul-
lied table
The wrong done to Zeus protector
of sweetright.

And on in the next few lines to
include bloodkin and bed-
bond, doomgroom and war-
wore. Harrison has always
loved playing with words, and
alongside all this public
verse, translation, adapta-
tion, transliteration, his per-

sonal poems have been flow-
ing out.
Harrison was born in Leeds
in 1937, the son of a baker,
went to the local grammar
school, then Leeds University
to read classics, taught in
Nigeria and briefly in
Cuba, got fellowships that
took him to Africa again, and
Cuba and Newcastle, where
he settled and married. His
early poetry, gathered in The
Loiners, was all about sex and
Africa, and a bit about class
politics, vigorous, skilled,
witty. It was also — with a few
exceptions — pretty much on
the surface.

Ah, the proved advantages of
scholarship!
Whereas his dad took tea for
his nap.
he takes at suances, knows at
just one sip

Chateau Lafite from Chateau
Neuf du Pape.

Not typical, maybe, but
indicative.

It's in the later poems, those
of the last 10 years starting
with the sequences — still in
progress — he calls The
School of Eloquence that the
most painful and personal
work lies. When we were
talking about the Mysteries,
about the apparent lack of any
good modern plays about reli-
gion, he said, "Very few of us
involved in the production
have any faith at all — except
in drama."

But in his personal poetry,
there is a recurrent sense of
loss, of remorse, of writing as
a form of amends and consol-
ation. The cover of his Penguin
Selected Poems (£2.95) is of
the family grave in Sheffield.

"One of the things religion
does is to help people cope
with mortality. What else
have we? There are very few
public ceremonies for that."

Yet by his account, reading
his own poems sometimes
becomes that. Almost invari-
ably, he says, when he reads
the poems that came out of
the death of his parents,
someone in the audience
breaks into tears. The poems
have uncovered things that
they've suppressed because
we don't have the forms to
deal with them.

The baker's man that no one will
see rise
and England made to feel like
some dull cat
is smoke, enough to sting one
person's eyes,
and ash (not unlike flour) for one
small loaf

He says it was his father's
inarticulateness — and one of
his uncles had a stammer,
another was dumb — "that
made me want to master as
many forms of articulation as
possible: that's why I'm
interested in learning differ-
ent languages, in transla-
tion. Though it's time, as he
knows, he wrote plays of his
own — his first television
piece was done at Christmas
— the personal poems are still
flowing and a very long elegy
for his parents comes out this
week in the London Review of
Books, a summation of all
these reflections on his
family. He has carried out his
early threat: "So right, yer
buggers then. We'll occupy
your lousy leasehold poetry."
Occupation of exclusive
places is his own obsessive
image.

But some critics, including
the Guardian's Martin Dod-
sworth, reviewing Harrison's
Selected Poems, admire his
facility while doubting the
seriousness, the strength of
his subversive conviction.

There are various ways of
being subversive, says Harri-
son. "A certain part of me
uses a certain part of my
ability to gratify expectations
of a literary experience. But
at that moment I remind the
person reading the poem that
they are enjoying a privilege
of literary experience denied
to the majority of people. It's
easy to empty a room with
poetry. I like to draw them in,
and then tell them something
uncomfortable."

In one of the last poems of
the collection, A Kumbquat
for John Keats, he seems to me
to enter a new phase in which
the undeniable skill and ease
are joined with a new celebra-
tion and, by his own word, a
rediscovery of the sensuous
and the loving. The poet
reflects he has lived 10 years
longer than Keats as he eats
the bitter-sweet kumquat, and
that decade

makes me an older not a wiser
man,
who knows that it's too late for
dying young,
but since youth leaves some
sweetness and a kumquat
he's granted days and kumquats
to express
Man's Being ripened by his
Nothingness.

On the first night of The
Misanthrope, at the National,
a grand occasion, his father
attended, wearing the good
suit every Yorkshire working
man keeps in his wardrobe.
Harrison left him for a few
moments, just by the entrance
to the stalls. "Where've you
been?" asked his father when
he came back. "Everybody's
been showing me their tick-
ets." Harrison tells the story
like a man touching a bruise,
to see if it still hurts.

BRIEFING

THEATRE

BILL BRYDEN'S epic pro-
duction of The Mysteries
(including The Nativity, The
Passion and Domesday) offi-
cially opens tomorrow at the
Cottesloe in a day-long pre-
sentation. Tony Harrison and
the company (which includes
Robert Stephens, Jack
Shepherd, Brenda Blethyn)
have done this version of the
English medieval mystery
plays. Howling, roaring, the
Power Of The Deceit comes
to Hampstead Theatre in a joint
Stock production directed by
Kenneth Branagh. Check by Jowl
complete their Donmar Ware-
house season with Racine's
Andromache, which is receiv-
ing incredibly, its profes-
sional English premiere.
Ostrovsky's comedy, The
Idiot, A. Scandrel, gets a

rare revival at the Orange
Tree Richmond in a produc-
tion by Peter Rowe. The
ancient Cafe Theatre in Little
Venice. The Miles
Found Show with Andy Hamil-
ton and Nick Bevell. The Open
Circle, a new play by Dario
Fo and Francis Rame, bows at
the Richard Steele Theatre,
NW2.

Recommended
Two Into One (Shakespeare):
Burlington House. A new
bed-hopping Tory minister.
The Hired Man (Aristotle): A
working-class Cavalcade with
an exciting score by Howard
Goodall.
Between the Pope's Wedding
(Royal Court): Early
Bond admirably honoured by
a crack company.

Michael Billington

OPERA

Le nozze di Cherubino

Jeannette Cochrane Theatre
Tuesday, Wednesday, next
Friday, tomorrow next, Pre-
miere for Giles Swayne's new
opera, which does without an
orchestra, produced by
Michael Hunt as the first
venture of the reformed Co-
pernicus. A Mozartian sequel in
Italian in the musical as well
as the narrative sense. Apart
from keyboard continuo,
accompaniment for the arias
is sung by those members of
the cast who are not on stage
at the time.

Capriccio (Glasgow tomorrow,
Tuesday, Thursday). With
Jack Notman's lovely
between-the-ways setting and
costumes, Scottish Opera's
new Strauss is worth catching.
Ian Caddy is an excellent
Count, Margaret Marshall a
fetching if light-voiced Coun-
tess.
Rigoletto (Coliseum tomor-
row, Thursday). Better-than-
ever revival of Jonathan Mil-
ler's mobster Verdi, superla-

tively conducted by John
Mauceri.
Tosca (Coliseum tonight,
Tuesday, next Friday).
Charles Mackerras's mar-
vellous conducting of Puccini
makes this a must. Phyllis
Cannan very promising as
Tosca.

Tom Sutcliffe

DANCE

IT IS Cinderella week at
Covent Garden — Sibyl-
leyn/Dowell on Tuesday, Col-
ler/Dagling on Wednesday,
Penny/Silver on Thursday,
Penny/Silver and Broomhead
make their debuts as Cin-
derella and her prince next
Friday.
Temporary Dance
Theatre have a season at the
Shaw Theatre from Tuesday
until Saturday. The first of
two programmes includes the
season premiere of Ian
Spink's Coco Loco.

Mary Clarke

MIME

BUSIEST week of the London
International Mime Festival.
Ra Ra Zoo offers circus skills
at Battersea Arts Centre
(tonight till Sunday).
Entr'acte Theatre from
Australia animates Bauhaus
designs at The Place (tonight,
Saturday) where there is also
a lecture and major forum.
Mime in Britain (Saturday
afternoon). Nola Rae finishes
at the Shaw Theatre (tonight),
the Swiss/Dutch duo
Pierre Etyland and Marieke
Schnicker take over (Saturday
only).

British Mimes predomi-
nate: David Glass in The
Shrinking Man at the Drill
Hall (from Tuesday), Peta
Lily at Battersea (Wednesday,
Thursday), Mivvy Theatre at
Jackson's Lane (Saturday,
Sunday).

Kenneth Rea

ROCK

Everything But The Girl/Az-
tec Camera/Orange Juice:
Brixton Academy (Sat) Pur-
veyors of student entertain-
ment unite in the year's first
big miners' benefit. Between
Tracey Thorn's voice, Roddy
Frame's songs, and Edwyn
Collins's lugubrious charm,
there is something for every-
one.

Misfire: Nottingham Rock
City (Sun), Croydon Fairfield
Hall (Mon), and Stannex
Middlesex Heris County Club
(Tues). Slow and sexy dance-
soul, featuring Tawatha Agee
on silky like Juicy Fruit
and You, Me and Him.
San Tracy/Tony Coe/Annie
Whitlock/Dedford Albany:
Empire (Tues). A chance to
see a Tony Coe who went
wildly improvisational on
disc last year.

Barney Hoskyns

Chapter of accidents

With adaptations much in vogue, Michael Billington
reflects on the perils of turning great novels into plays

OUR theatre is awash with
adaptations. Already this
year I have seen versions of
Dickens's Great Expecta-
tions, Thackeray's Vanity
Fair, Kafka's In The Penal
Colony, Samuel Richardson's
Pamela, and there is a rush
to come. Vari Lyubimov is
currently rehearsing Dos-
toevsky's The Possessed to
be seen at the Odéon in Paris
and the Almeida in London,
and the RSC is reputedly
going to give us Victor Hugo's
Les Misérables at the Barbican.
One used to go to the
theatre to see a dramatist's
response to life: now one goes
to watch an adaptor's
response to a book.

Why this preoccupation
with turning novels into
theatre? The RSC's Nicholas
Nickelby clearly showed
there is a public hunger for
the proliferation of incident
and character that a Victorian
novel provides and that a
modern dramatist rarely
does: the success of that show
had, I believe, a lot to do with
its sheer inordinance at a
time when modern drama
often boils down to three men
and a lightbulb. The epic is
very much in vogue. But the
success of Nicholas Nickelby
and its followers also sig-
nified the current conservatism
of public taste. People seem
to prefer the familiar or half-
familiar (old books, old musi-
cals, old stories) to the chal-

lenge of the unknown. They
prefer the novel, in fact, to the
new.

This is not the whole story
since there has always been a
ready market for adaptations
(in Dickens's own day, pirated
versions of his books were
rushed onto the stage hot
from the press). But I am wary
of the current adaptation-
vogue because it often pro-
duces a curious aesthetic
compromise. What the novel
supremely gives one is the
stream of time: the gradations
of growth in a character
over a long period.
What the stage puts in its
place is a telescoped view of
people. Read Great Expecta-
tions and you see how the
hero's childhood guilt (stimu-
lated by contact with Mag-
witch, played on by Mrs Joe
Gargery) extends inexorably
into adult life. Watch Peter
Coe's Old Vic version and all
you see is a frightened boy
turning into a bumptious
young man.

But the other key point is
that a truly first-rate novel is
infinitely more than the sum
of its incidents: its impact
depends upon the author's
tone of voice and upon the
subtle accumulation of detail.
Many adaptations try to ac-
knowledge that by incorporat-
ing prose descriptions into
the narrative (to be fair, with
conspicuous success in the
case of Nicholas Nickleby).



Half throttle — Roy Dotrice, right, as Magwitch and Anthony
Pearson as Pip in Great Expectations. Picture by Douglas Jeffery

But it can never be more than
an approximation to the origi-
nal.

If you want to understand
Vanity Fair, for instance, and
the constant subservience of
true worth to glitter you have
to go back to, say, the young
Dobbin's admiration for
George Osborne. The child-
hood Dobbin showered end-
less presents on his friend —
"the which tokens of homage
George received very grate-
fully as became superior
merit." You rarely get that
kind of combative irony in an
adaptation.

At heart, I believe drama
and the novel are irreconcil-
able. A great play pins down a
moment in time and shows
how it is shaped by the past
and impinges on the future:
true of most masterworks
from Oedipus Rex to A Doll's
House. A great novel depicts
individual consciousness
shifting over a period of time
and through a succession of
events: true of almost every-
thing from Dickens to Tolstoy.

That is why screens of
different sizes are better
suited to adaptation than
stages. Television has the
advantage of length (it can
take 13 hours to the stage's
three). The cinema is also
marvellously equipped to
show the fluidity of time and

the inter-action of youth and
age: indeed a really great
film, like Sergio Leone's Once
Upon A Time In America,
often has a Proletarian density
even when it is an original
screenplay.

But although, in principle, I
am against the transforma-
tion of novels into pseudo-
plays, I readily admit that the
process can be done with
varying degrees of skill and
that it can sometimes lead to
exciting work. The big mis-
take, I believe, is to try to
encompass the whole of a
novel: the real answer lies in
selection of significant
themes and the discovery of a
suitable framework.

Giles Havergal and Fidelis
Morgan, for instance, have
done an adaptation of
Richardson's Pamela (in
Preston this week and on tour
till April when it arrives at
the Bloomsbury Theatre,
London) for Shared Experi-
ence that is something of a
triumph. Richardson's novel,
at first sight, seems eminently
stageable.

It describes, in a series of
letters and over four volumes,
the relentless pursuit of a
servant-maid by her master
(the most protracted preser-
vation of virginity in litera-
ture) and her ultimate mar-
riage to the intemperate Mr

Belville. In its eighteenth-
century time all the rage (it
led to the production of
"Pamela" motifs and sov-
ereign just like the modern
Glamour industry), it is
today, I suspect, largely
unread.

In the theatre, I rather
dreaded an evening of people
sitting on chairs reading
extracts from the book. But
what Havergal has done in his
production is present us with
a rehearsal-room run-through
in costume that draws con-
stant attention to the modern
setting: people make phone-
calls, knit, eat oranges while
Pamela is fighting for her
honour and we have Rob
Hooper as the director read-
ing in for the procress Mrs
Jewkes and giving us a hint of
her "ugly horse-lip." At one
point an actor even rushes in
from participation in a
main-stage production of
Coriolanus and plays an
eighteenth-century scene in a
top.

This is not a tawdry gim-
mick. It is a classic piece of
"alienation" in that it makes
you look critically at the story
being told. And it works in
the ways. It highlights the
difference in sexual attitudes
between our own age and that
of Pamela where Mr Belville
shamelessly tries to exercise
his "droit de seigneur" and
where he argues that a wife
has no right to nurse her own
child. But, at the same time, it
underscores Richardson's
ability to project himself into
Pamela's skin and under-
stand her female integrity
("What right has he in me,
she asks of Belville, "but such
as a thief may plead to stolen
goods").

In short, Havergal and
Morgan have not tried to give
us the whole of Pamela (they
have even incorporated bits
of adaptations by Goldoni,
Voltaire and David Garrick).
What they have done is to
make us look closely at the
value of the book. And I am
reminded of what Lyubimov
did in his Moscow production
of Crime and Punishment
(space made it impossible at
the Lyric Hammersmith). The
audience, I gather, entered in
single file and passed a class-
room desk where they picked
up a copy of a modern school
composition arguing that Re-
shikov was right to kill the
old woman. The whole pro-

duction then became an
extended criticism of that
viewpoint.

This, surely, is the answer
to adaptation. One doesn't
just put a novel onto the stage.
One places it in a context,
holds it up to the light and
examines both the values it
expresses and our attitude
towards it. Lyubimov has
realised that. So have
Havergal and Morgan. And
unless the rest of our theatre
grasps that basic point we are
reduced to sitting through
endless filleted classics that
never begin to match the
pleasure of reading.

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SAMANTHA EGGAR
ALAN DOBIE
COLIN FIRTH
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FROM FRIDAY JANUARY 18

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A tax on diversity and innovation

One job for an independent newspaper is reporting — and then evaluating — the pleadings of pressure groups and special interests. People, for instance, putting cases to the Chancellor of the Exchequer as he prepares his Budget. That reporting and assessment role, however, can get a bit sticky when the special interest under potential attack is newspaper publishing itself. Even so, Mr Lawson would be wrong to slap VAT on books, newspapers, magazines, and wrong for reasons stretching far beyond the immediate business interests of The Guardian or the other publications within our group.

We know, for a fact, that such thoughts are in Mr Lawson's mind. They were there last year, and aborted at the last moment. This year the Treasury's dulcet nodders and winkers have been floating wheezes. And last year's wheeze has been modded about and winked over. Equally the special interests have been alerted. On Wednesday the Society of Authors staged an eloquent rally against VAT on books. Yesterday the Newspaper Society produced a daunting (and independent) account of VAT's probable impact on the regional press.

Though the two cases are, naturally, different in detail, they are absolutely together in their broad thrust. Simply, that this measure would be a disaster: and a very specific sort of disaster. It wouldn't wipe out book publishing overnight. Nor would it wipe out the regional press. But far beyond the margin, it would dramatically narrow diversity and choice, and thus freedom of expression.

In some countries with a written constitution the public's right to information is enshrined as a fundamental of democracy. And such a right, in practical terms, implies the means to disseminate information. Where means are involved, inevitably, different countries find different ways. Many European nations — as Peter Fiddick reports today — either impose or have imposed a tax on their books and newspapers. But the rates of tax vary widely.

And they also extend may over and covert subsidies. There is no clean break between the State and the Press. There is, instead, a complex financial mechanism of sticks and carrots. To take one isolated Treasury argument — that VAT is a "European" policy which must now, in all honour, be applied — is to take only a small segment of the whole picture. The financial and political relationships between French, Belgian and German newspapers and their governments are not the relationships we have here. One may prefer such models. But prying in aid of odd bits of them is dishonest. The current British situation, by contrast, is clear enough. We have no written constitution. But we have long since decided that a Tax on Knowledge is antipathetic to democracy. And we have declined — with basic commonsense — to try to define what we mean by knowledge.

The twin diagnoses for books and for the regional press fit snugly. On the surface publishing seems healthy enough. More titles than ever before were published in England in 1984. But anyone who cares to look beyond those figures will see that the book trade itself was stagnant. In a sense the proliferation of titles reflected the thrashings for survival of a host of small businesses. If VAT comes for books, it is infinitely predictable that the smallest — and weakest — houses and sellers will crumble first. And that the less profitable publications of the bigger houses will be pared away. Specifically: first novels, serious literature, academic work and poetry. The coffee tables of the nation will remain glossily safe. But the vital margin of experiment and innovation will be gone.

Britain's regional press finds itself similarly placed. It is an area of intense activity on the surface. But profits are (historically) slim; and the wave of freeshoot publications day by day, makes it harder for the paid-for papers — the papers with staffs who cover your courts and your councils — to make ends meet. Month by month, local weekly and evening papers are closing down or (perforce) becoming freeshoots themselves. There is no one left to sit in courts or councils, or to report the MP with a burning issue on his mind. Left to the natural cycle of things, perhaps, a more stable balance may in time be struck. But VAT at this stage would be lethal, as yesterday's accounting report from Price Waterhouse amply demonstrates.

Some of the advice the Chancellor has been receiving shrugs off such fears, to be

sure. Sundry backbenchers, too, have made much of the Fleet Street bingo wars. Since when was Bingo untaxable knowledge? But the fundamental point, now clearly established, is that the worst sufferers from VAT would not for a second be the bingo brigade. Bingo has become the symbolic sword of hugely capitalised multinational groups attempting to bludgeon each other into submission. They are the strong who may expect to pick up (and profit from) the pieces that the smaller fish abandon in taxed extremity. If Mrs Thatcher doesn't like the bingoing growths, she can always tax them. But the heart of this matter is quite different. It is the real threat diversity.

The freight equation

To the punters, shivering on suburban platforms, it matters little whether yesterday's chaos was official or otherwise. As for British Rail it is still busily totting up the cost just in case the board does decide to go ahead with its threatened action for damages. What is already clear beyond all doubt is that the coal dispute has cost the freight division some £200 million in lost revenues. Of that, management estimates, at least £50 million has gone because some of its own employees are refusing to carry such coal as is available, the oil that could be substituted for it and the steel which could be worked with "black" coal. To date—and despite the claims of harassment from the new, left wing alliance of rail unions—BR has in general bent over backwards to avoid provoking that relative handful of railwaymen who have refused to perform their normal duties, on the footplate or in the signal box, in support of the miners. There have been no sackings and no indefinite suspensions. Those taking sympathetic action are merely sent home for the shift. (The unions make up their pay, incidentally.)

All of which suggests that, like last year's two abortive dock strikes, yesterday's stoppage was a somewhat contrived event, designed to show solidarity without stretching the patience of the mass of the lads too far. It was also designed to provoke management into some form of punitive response which might just spark off a more general rail strike. That is why the board should think long and hard before going through with the legal action it has threat-

ened. Tactically they may consider it smarter to gather evidence of the cost of yesterday's exercise and then present it to the unions with a choice: no action for damages if you can guarantee no further protest stoppages. But equally it is high time the board spelled out to its employees the devastating impact the coal strike and the continuing Midlands boycott is having on the freight division, which depends heavily upon the bulk movement of coal and steel. Both iron and finished steel are now being transported by the new 38 tonne lorries which have proved their viability these past months. Eventually much bulk ore transport must return to rail. But not all of it. The British Steel Corporation will almost certainly continue to move much of its finished steel by road. That way the staff is more likely to beat future disputes.

The Central Electricity Generating Board is also likely to retain its new mix of road and rail transport. This is work gone beyond recall. It is impossible to quantify the other potential customers who must now feel that this is the age of the motorway. But BR has already chopped 120 jobs from the freight division with another 600 under threat. The planned, overnight Speedlink service—which demands heavy investment—is now in danger because the cash is no longer flowing through the system to finance it. Mr Jimmy Knapp of the railwaymen and Mr Ray Buckton of the locodriver recently launched a drive to sell the railways as a reliable and socially beneficial public service. We wish them good fortune. But yesterday's events, alas could have been designed by some malignant road haulage pressure group to subvert their campaign.

Fuller speed ahead?

If the only argument for increasing the motorway speed limit was the wish to gratify the machismo of the upwardly mobile, outside lane, headlight flashers then it would be an easy one to oppose. Instinctive bloody-mindedness and considerations of the public good would be inseparable. There would be no good reason for changing the 70 miles per hour maximum that is now one of the few legacies of the Wilson years to have survived the Thatcher revolution.

In fact, as the Automobile Association has been saying for some time, there are practical arguments for allowing the limit

for cars to rise to 80 mph. For one thing, a higher limit would do something to cut down on the terrifying bunching that bedevils much motorway driving. For another, the existing limit is already more honoured in the breach. It is unenforced by the police, and an unenforced rule is generally a bad rule. It is by no means clear that any magic attaches to the 70 mph limit as far as the likelihood of accidents is concerned. An 80 mph limit would not make the British speed merchants of the European motorway system. France, Austria, Switzerland and Italy all have limits at 130. West Germany still has around this level. West Germany still has no autobahn speed limit at all, and the experimental 62 mph restriction which came into force between Hamburg and Bremen this week has been dictated by pollution considerations, not by safety fears.

This week's report from the all-party House of Commons Transport Committee adds its voice to those of the AA and the police in urging a new 80 mph limit. But such a change cannot be introduced in isolation from other road safety considerations, as the MPs' report fully recognises. The driving test needs to be improved. Public education for qualified drivers must be expanded. Rear seat belts have to be fitted compulsorily. Tighter speed restrictions are necessary on lorries and, especially, on coaches. Above all, enforcement has to be made effective. That will mean more radar traps and greater investment in speed surveillance technology. It means more and better policing. There are real civil libertarian implications certainly, but it is preferable for motorway law enforcement to concentrate on dangerous driving than on intercepting lawful picketing.

In the context of an enhanced and prioritised road safety programme, an increase in the speed limit to 80 mph is a desirable change. Even without these other measures, there is still a strong case for an experimental period. The important point is that particular limits should not become a totem pole. There is a danger of fostering existing restrictions with an ideological significance that they should not have to bear. There is no more sense in abolishing all limits in order to please free market individualists than there is in imposing ever lower limits in order to compel people to use public transport. Private cars are a fact of life and a desirable one, even when used for commuting. Traffic safety regulations have to be judged according to their economic and social benefits, as well as their environmental effects.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

When the Special Branch stands in for the police

Sir, — I was glad to have Mr Robert Cozen's explanation (Guardian, January 10) of the December/January delay in solving the murder last March of Miss Eileen Murrell. Mr Tam Dalyell, MP, had hampered the investigation by claiming that British intelligence was involved in her death, thus wasting police time. Now may we have his explanation of the delay between March and December?

Obviously, I'm glad to hear from Mr Cozen's (who as chief constable of West Mercia, should know) that Special Branch officers were involved in the murder inquiry on a "routine" basis because of manpower demands; it is good to know that they sometimes spend

their time on something more socially useful than bugging my phone. Now can somebody give me a list of the other "routine" investigations that Special Branch helped with during 1984, or was this the only case with no security implications that they changed to be involved with? There is no reason for refusing to give me such a list because if they were investigating ordinary murders, burglaries and suchlike, the information cannot be classified; and if they helped to solve any of these crimes, it is only right that they should have the credit for it, to improve their present rather unfortunate image. — (Mrs) Janet Evans, Woburn, Buckinghamshire.

Gas blast

Sir,—The explosion at Putney last week and the subsequent exhortations by the gas boards that regular and efficient servicing of gas installations is not only sensible but essential seems strangely at odds with the board's own policy.

Having recently contacted the East Midlands Gas Board with a view to using its servicing scheme for a two-year-old central heating system, I was somewhat surprised to be informed that as the company which manufactured the system wasn't "gas board approved" the board wouldn't carry out any servicing. The company concerned is by no means a tiny back-street concern:

My concern is that if the gas board is on the one hand claiming that servicing is essential, but on the other hand won't service particular systems,

It's all very well bemoaning the public's lack of attention to servicing it at the same time the boards turn their backs when "unapproved" systems are installed. Such an attitude seems at variance with the lesson learned from the Putney explosion: the need for "regular servicing and good workmanship." Yours, etc, Graham Cadman, Northampton.

Homes truth

Sir,—Despite many years' practical experience in local government finance I have never really understood the economic arguments which prompted the Government to tighten restrictions on local authorities' rights to spend the proceeds of council house sales.

The excellent article by Terence Higgins (Agenda, January 14) partially clarifies the position. Mr Higgins states that the Government view is that if a council sells a house and does not spend the money immediately it either reduces its borrowing or lends the money so that the PSBR is reduced.

Conversely, if the council later wishes to spend the money it has to borrow it back, thus increasing the PSBR.

I can understand the concern of the Government about fluctuations in PSBR from year to year, but pre-empting a council sells a house and spends the proceeds in the same year then the PSBR argument no longer applies.

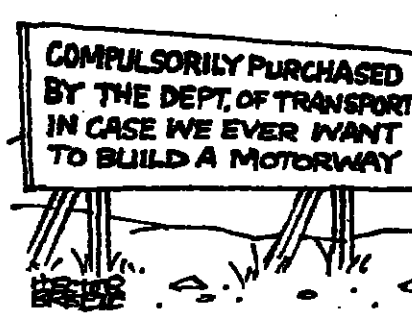
There would appear to be a case therefore to allow local authorities complete freedom to spend money in the same year in which it is received.—Yours faithfully, K. Nutland, (Borough Treasurer), Cheltenham Borough Council.

Seeing red over a green belt sell-out

Sir,—Our association is very grateful for the publicity given to a local problem which is causing us much anxiety. I refer to your articles of January 9 and January 14 on the 90-acre site by the M25/M1 junction near St Albans, partly owned by the Department of Transport, which was advertised for warehousing or similar development. The Department of Transport has admitted "a mistake" in so describing it, but the sale is going ahead—as your first article says—on the basis of the original advertisement. A contract for an option on the site is expected within two months.

Compulsorily acquired agricultural land—which it still is, and agricultural priority land at that—should be safe, according to the Department of Transport which says the rules were changed in 1979 with local authorities having to bid in the open market. Such a purchase could ensure continued green belt status and should be facilitated. Mr Patrick Jenkins' words last Sunday on Chiltern Radio that the Government was not in the business of making profits from such sales should be capable of being interpreted as Government policy.

There should be a unified



both departments, one is even less certain.

Every tier of local government, from county to Parish, is opposed, as are all interested organisations from the Hertfordshire Society to village residents' associations. Early inquiries regarding local authority purchase were rebuffed by the Department of Transport which says the rules were changed in 1979 with local authorities having to bid in the open market. Such a purchase could ensure continued green belt status and should be facilitated. Mr Patrick Jenkins' words last Sunday on Chiltern Radio that the Government was not in the business of making profits from such sales should be capable of being interpreted as Government policy.

There should be a unified

policy, of course. Perhaps the left hand does not want to know what the right hand is doing.—Yours faithfully, Bert Nease, Brickley Wood Ratepayers' Association, St Albans, Hertfordshire.

Sir,—Your article, "Mrs Chalkers' neutral" towards use of land bought for M-ways" (January 14) speaks of the value of land at a junction of motorways which was compulsorily purchased by the Ministry of Transport in 1982 for £3,000 an acre. The portion surplus to requirements is now expected to fetch £250,000 an acre.

If it were to turn out that the huge excess were to go to the Government for public purposes, justice would be done, because the excess

arises only because public money was spent on motorways to run between great contributions which themselves were established by private and public capital and labour. No contribution was made to either by the original owners of the land under consideration.

We hear of the dramatic facts of this case only because a public body is involved and publicity results. But it involves only an infinitesimal part of land in the vicinity of motorways. Almost all the rest is in private hands and transactions are confidential to the parties involved. Further, such land is only part of the land of our country, almost all of which is in private hands and which ultimately reaps the benefit of the efforts of the whole community.

The value of all land is obviously a proper subject for taxation, for such taxation would take back for public purposes values created by the public itself. This in turn would relieve labour and capital of the burden of taxation which for so long has hindered economic progress.

Edgar S. Buck, 115 Cyncoed Road, Cardiff.

Legislative fields

Sir,—I am delighted to inform Caroline Penn (Letters, January 15) that her plea for some public recognition of the loss of school playing fields has been heard. On January 25 I hope to introduce the Sports Field and Recreational Facilities Bill for its second reading in the Commons. My bill, supported by many colleagues and the Central Council for Physical Recreation and others, would empower the secretary of state to monitor the increasing practice of developing playing fields; form a national register which would give an up-to-date assessment of the practice; and encourage the greater community use of sports facilities.

Nottinghamshire County Council is not alone in taking falling school rolls as an excuse to sell off its school grounds; thus releasing additional cash to be spent on non-sporting projects. Once built on, these open spaces are gone forever, not even allowing play areas for those children who will live in their newly constructed homes.

Many acres are now under threat from the disposal of such land by local authorities, the Ministry of Defence, nationalised industries, and large firms. My bill succeeds — and I am pleased to have enlisted two Nottingham MPs as sponsors — at least an early-warning system will be established that will sound public opinion before drastic policies are pursued.

Yours faithfully, John Carlisle, MP, (C. Luton N), House of Commons.

Sir,—Mrs S. Penn is, I am afraid, confused in that she wants national policy for improving schools to be imposed on local authorities. But the bits of school playing fields we in Nottinghamshire decide to sell were surplus according to national (DES) policy standards. She fails to distinguish the general from the particular. It is, in my view, reasonable to prefer to condone hoarding and late abortion rather than accept in-vitro technology which creates life not destroys it. Anyone who is opposed to abortion thinks that late (or early) abortions are wrong, precisely because they do what in-vitro technology ultimately does—they destroy life.

Leo Abse's argument, or rather diatribe, is purely ad hominem. To present a reasoned case is one thing. To distort is another. 14 Heaton Whitehouse, Bradford, W. Yorkshire.

The foetal position

Sir,—Leo Abse's muddled article, (January 11) deserves a sharp response. It is factually wrong, swooningly enthusiastic about purely pragmatic and utilitarian notions applied selectively and wilfully simplistic in its "enlightened" attack on the stand against anti-human practices.

The opposition to the cultivation, experimentation on, and sale of life—human focuses is based on the belief that medical experimentation on human beings is only justified when it is for the benefit of the patient. Once that principle goes, and any benefit is for others, anything is possible and, ultimately, permissible, particularly if it is done in the name of medical progress. Why should we not produce a range of "developed foetal products," going beyond the normal stage at birth, for our noble purposes? The experimental and commercial use of embryonic human beings do not base their opposition on the existence of a "soul," whatever that may be. If we cannot define the point, which human life becomes a person, we cannot define the procedure in such cases is to give the benefit of the doubt.

Knowledge in itself is good, but it cannot be acquired at any price. If its cost is the dismembering and disposal of a living human creature, even at an early stage of its development, we must either acquire it in other ways or do without it. Every time another foetus is destroyed in its name, a further dehumanisation has taken place. The fact that there is a handy supply of ready-made experimental subjects will in itself tend to prevent us from acquiring the knowledge of other more human and humane ways.

No-one I know in the "befuddled" anti-abortion lobby has "smelt blood" or "made it clear that they prefer to condone hoarding and late abortion rather than accept in-vitro technology which creates life not destroys it." Anyone who is opposed to abortion thinks that late (or early) abortions are wrong, precisely because they do what in-vitro technology ultimately does—they destroy life.

Leo Abse's argument, or rather diatribe, is purely ad hominem. To present a reasoned case is one thing. To distort is another. 14 Heaton Whitehouse, Bradford, W. Yorkshire.

Flip side

Sir,—Yet another Miscellaneous double solution (cf. Letters, January 16). As the Americans have selected the dollar piece, preferring to retain their dollar bills, Eric Knott's proposal (Letters, January 16) to use dollars instead of pounds would add another "all the arguments about the pound coin." Yours sincerely, Jack Griffiths, Ferring by Sea, West Sussex.

EXTORTIONIST?



This week, the New Statesman demonstrates how the Government plans to rob 8 million TSB investors of £800 million.

Also, the next General Secretary of the Labour Party, Tribune (part 2), Who runs Ronald Reagan? and much more.

New Statesman

The weekly for people with minds of their own. Every Friday, 80p.

A COUNTRY DIARY

AVON: Inconvenient to humans as a prolonged period of sub-zero temperature is, its effect on wildlife is potentially much more significant. There was one day last week when severe overnight frost followed a light snowfall. On the steep gradients surrounding Bath I managed to fall over on six occasions. My bicycle has been abandoned for the duration of this cold spell, but the bruises remain to remind me to proceed with even

greater caution. This morning when we parted our curtains to find a fresh cover of snow, it was the behaviour of a fox in a field on the steeply rising shoulder of land opposite which caught the attention. The fox emerged from the cover of the skeletal hedge and moved with that brisk but slinky passage typical of the species to the centre of the field. It hesitated there, returned to the cover of the hedge, and then repeated the

manoeuvre. To be out in broad daylight, over snow cover, and some time after dawn struck me as typical behaviour, as the local fox population is more in evidence at twilight. The flock of five domestic geese when roamed the grounds of the property across the road are also disturbed by the snow. They often appear together, honking loudly, in the gateway, through which a ground sloping down on to the road. The spring water is frozen

into an extensive sheet of ice and the geese, unable to find a secure footing, honk ever more loudly and flap their wings in vain efforts to maintain their cumbersome progress. Although we have not been singled out for infestation, I hope that the sequence of hard frosts will inflict a major check on the population of woodlice or slaters. The summer saw them in record number, both inside and out.

COLIN LUCKHURST

Rumbles of rebellion in the Tory backwoods jungle

Aids-memoire for MPs

William Cash

WARNOCK, Gillick, AIDS. Baby Fae: 1985 is going to be a year of inquiry into medicine, science and medical ethics. So far, each of these inquiries has been treated as important but separate. In fact, they interlock with profound social and political implications for us all.

On December 20 I tabled an Early Day Motion drawing attention to the link between sexually transmitted diseases, the issue of contraceptives to girls under the age of 16 and the question of infertility which superficially promoted the consequences of the Warnock Report. The motion called upon Norman Fowler and Kenneth Clarke to promote a campaign through the Health Education Council warning of the danger to health in the current trends of sexual promiscuity. On January 1, the Royal College of Nursing predicted a potential one million cases of AIDS within the next six years.

The problem is urgent — not exclusively on moral grounds but also on social and ethical grounds and on the basis of plain, straightforward common sense: AIDS kills and sexual diseases induce infertility. The prime justification for the Warnock proposals is to cure infertility. How many people realise that often infertility is the direct consequence of abortion or sexual disease? And that abortion, sexual diseases and cancer are surely the consequence of widespread and early sexual promiscuity, often begun before the age of 16.

In every case of abortion in an unmarried mother there is a significant risk of subsequent infertility and, where it is accompanied by sexual disease, the risk of AIDS or one of the other transmitted diseases. It is now established that AIDS can be transmitted between heterosexuals as well as between homosexuals. Doctors fear that we may be in the incubation period of a massive outbreak of AIDS, for which there is only a limited chance of survival.

What do people want? A campaign for a change in attitude towards sex, however difficult this may seem to achieve, or the death of so many of our young people? I mentioned the connection between the Warnock Report and the health of the nation. The "justification" for the conclusions of the Warnock Report is infertility. Every one must surely agree, even where it is self-induced, that infertility is a tragedy.

But Warnock is only incidentally about infertility and, for that matter, commercial surrogacy. By deliberate intention or downright negligence, there is an obscuring of the long-term implications of the test tube baby experiments. Many leading experts dispute the necessity for them because there are alternative methods of achieving the elimination of deformities and disabilities.

So long as commercial surrogacy catches the headlines, the real in-depth research will continue. A single Bill to deal with commercial surrogacy is simply not enough and could be seen as a smokescreen unless accompanied by formal commitment to legislation on the other matters concerned.

In the Warnock Debate on November 23, I drew attention to the importance of Parliament considering the long term prospect of a super race served by super proles. This seemed to me to be a likely consequence of the current experimental programme with the most appalling political consequences.

No licensing authority would have any realistic chance of controlling the inexorable progress down the route mapped out for it by the medical experts. A licence to control is a licence to authorise and the Warnock Committee was hopelessly obscure on the composition of the licensing authority itself and upon the question of medical ethics. Indeed, the Medical Research Council guidelines are themselves wholly inadequate to deal with the current problems arising in this field.

The question of what research is being done, who is doing it and why it is being done, must be fully investigated by Parliament.

The President of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, Mr M. C. Macnaughton, said that "those who would deny the possibility of preventing these terrible handicaps must bear a heavy responsibility if the recommendation of the Warnock Committee on embryo research up to 14 days is honoured." Can he and others who support him present a clear picture of the kind of disaster which would emerge from the research which he recommends?

The responsibility for this lies in Parliament but Parliament must be properly informed. It is to be hoped that every possible support will be given to Kenneth Powell's Bill. Its second reading is on February 15.

William Cash is Conservative MP for Stafford.



Ian Aitken

IT IS easy to understand why prime ministers thoroughly enjoy jaunting round the world in funny hats. They back in the extravagant airport welcomes, savour the even more extravagant compliments of their hosts and count the hours in their 19 gun salutes to see they are not being short-changed.

In such an atmosphere, the trials of the national currency, the tribulations of the Chancellor of the Exchequer must seem pretty small beer. It is all the

more unpleasant, therefore, when the VC10 touches down at Heathrow and the key winds of domestic reality close round one again.

Everyone who has ever been on a distant holiday knows the feeling on finding the red-link Final Notices heaped on the doormat. The temptation is to say with Mr Callaghan on his return from Guadeloupe in 1979: "Crisis? What crisis?"

Not that Mr Callaghan actually used those words. What he was really saying in the VII suite at Heathrow was: "Listen, I've been out there in the West Indies talking to the leaders of the Western Alliance about how to save the human race from nuclear annihilation, and you tell me you're cold and there are power cuts. Have a sense of proportion."

And one can see what he meant. But it doesn't alter the fact that that minor event, overblown as it was in the Tory newspapers, helped lose Labour the 1979 general election.

Not that it would be reasonable to conclude from Mr Callaghan's experience that the present Sterling cri-

sis, coming so close on the heels of Mrs Thatcher's fantasy trip round the globe, is going to lose the Conservative Party the next general election. For one thing, no general election is in prospect for at least three years. For another, Mrs Thatcher has the overwhelming advantage of a split opposition.

But that does not alter the fact that the week we have just experienced will almost certainly prove to have had a profound effect on the future of the Conservative Party as a whole, and on the fortunes of Mrs Thatcher in particular. It is even possible that in years to come we will be able to point to January 1985 as the moment when Thatcherism began to loosen its baleful grip on the Tory Party.

In saying this, I recognise that I may be engaging in little more than wishful thinking. But I believe that there is substance in my dreams. For Mrs Thatcher is a politician who has pre-eminently presented herself to her country and her party as a leader who was going to reverse the dismal trend of the past and give Britain back its self-respect.

Yet, rightly or wrongly, there are few things more directly linked in the public mind with national self-respect than the value of our currency. A plunging pound looks very like national humiliation, and if Mrs Thatcher is now to become a victim of this simplistic view, she can hardly complain. She and her colleagues did a great deal to encourage it under successive Labour Governments.

It is no good the Prime Minister going on Woman's Hour to declare in that awful breathy voice that she is totally puzzled by the whole Sterling crisis, and can't understand why the pound is so undervalued. The man in the street knows perfectly well why the dollar is strong and the pound is weak. It is because the American economy is strong and the British economy is weak.

But it is arguable that the pound will recover, and that the dollar exchange rate will float upwards again to something more like its purchasing-power parity — or that it will at least stay where it is. In that case, will not all the events of the past

week be comfortably forgotten by the time Chancellor Lawson rises to announce his tax cutting Budget?

It is possible. But I suspect that something even more fundamental has been happening than an all-too-obvious government panic over the pound. Under the surface, a sea change has been overtaking the mood and morale of the government and its parliamentary supporters.

The change reflects an increasingly desperate feeling among many Tory MPs that Ministers in general, and Mrs Thatcher in particular, have lost all sense of reality in the application of government policy. In no area is this more apparent than in the way in which Mr Patrick Jenkin has ploughed on with his plans for rate capping and for the abolition of the Greater London Council.

Few things affect Conservative Members of Parliament more directly in their constituency associations than local government, and a growing number of them are now convinced that the Cabinet not only should but must

perform a massive U-turn. What is worrying them most of all, however, is the fear that Mrs Thatcher's equity will not allow her to deliver.

On a number of other key issues of policy, not least on defence and the future of our conventional forces vis-à-vis the Trident missile programme, traditional Tory loyalists can be heard complaining that a change of mind is not only essential but in the long run inevitable.

The only obstacle is Mrs Thatcher. None of this means that there is anything remotely resembling a "Thatcher Must Go" movement among the vast body of the Parliamentary Conservative Party. Not even the wets seriously believe that she can be toppled in the foreseeable future, much though they would like it to happen.

But the evidence that the mood has changed to Mrs Thatcher's disadvantage is visible in the actual behaviour of MPs. To the astonishment of their elders and betters many ambitious young politicians now see mutiny and rebellion as positively helpful to their careers.

Ways of dealing with the regions — underfunded, underdeveloped and unemployed — have been broadcast by Edward Heath, right, among other Tories. Pictures by Don McPhee

What price the regions of the damned?

PETER HETHERINGTON

THE other Conservative Party which lives daily with the consequences of rising unemployment, falling investment and continuing business failures — managed another whimper of protest just a few days ago.

Edward Heath stole the show on BBC's Newsnight with another vigorous onslaught on the North/South divide in a speech in Sunderland (where one in four is out of work) followed by another call in Parliament for increased public investment instead of tax cuts.

But the implied criticisms of Government policy from several influential Tories in the region illustrated more graphically than Mr Heath did that other yawning divide — between some Conservatives in the once prosperous industrial heartlands and the dominant faction in Government, that other party of Mrs Thatcher, Mr Lawson and Mr Tebbit which is instinctively hostile to concepts of regional aid.

The former PM's views, after all, are well known; those of the beleaguered Northern Tories rather less so.

It took two rather right-wing young Conservative MPs — Michael Fallon (Darlington) and Piers Merchant (Newcastle Central) — to flush out the muted, but nonetheless significant protests. Not for them the regional consensus that hefty Government aid is vital to provide the most equitable economic balance nationally, and to prevent overheating in the relatively more prosperous areas. Mr Heath, of course, went further, calling for State planning on the scale of the early sixties; an argument which appears treacherously corporatist to his opponents.

The two MPs, anticipating another gloomy state-of-the-region report, jumped in with both feet. "Each pre-

vious report has been a doom-laden beggars' charter and a very poor advertisement for the region," they whined.

"The North-east is not short of public money. Billions have been wasted away subsidising old industries, uneconomic plants, inefficient shipyards and smaller New Tech and smaller companies."

In fact, much of the Northern coalfield was wiped out in the sixties while the Wearside shipyards not so long ago were regarded as world leaders.

Now, by far the largest slice of public money — around one third of government spending in the North-east annually — goes to the unemployed. But let it pass.

The Opposition did not need to respond. Many regional Tories were clearly incensed; some publicly apologised for their colleagues and made clear that such views were certainly not representative of the party in the North.

Doom-laden or not, the report effectively put paid to any claims of economic recovery in the region which has the highest unemployment rate of mainland Britain: (19 per cent officially and rising).

The chief executive of Cambridgeshire county council, Mr Rowland Whitfield, pointed out that the cost of unemployment in the Northern region (Tyne and Wear, Northumberland, Durham, Cleveland and Cumbria) was now a billion pounds a year — "a massive waste of human resources."

But the two MPs have a plan which deserves to be taken seriously. They have been on a study tour of the USA and will shortly publish new proposals aimed at "revitalising private enterprise and wealth creation." That will involve abolishing

petty restrictions on business those tiresome employment protection measures, health and safety at work acts and a few other statutory provisions besides perhaps — in favour of measures that will help create fresh jobs.

But the implication that New Tech industries will be attracted by a truly free labour market, where private enterprise can let rip unimpeded by petty restrictions, flies in the face of all experience.

Remember Sir Geoffrey Howe's once cherished enterprise zones: the small areas, with tightly drawn boundaries where industries would be spared the burden of rates and petty planning restrictions? In truth, the most successful — Clydebank for instance — have benefited not from this rates moratorium but from substantial sums of government money — factory building, land clearance, environmental works — even venture capital channels through a Scottish or Welsh development agency.

More importantly, the arrival of the big semi-conductor companies in Scotland's silicon Glen can be attributed to the considerable clout of the SDA and the Scottish Office. The co-ordination can only be successful with (more) public money. In reality, an emerging High Tech sector can only be successful with substantial public investment.

That places the English regions at a considerable disadvantage — a fact acknowledged by Mr Heath in his Sunderland speech — although strangely they have Right chosen to ignore this glaring anomaly.

The Scottish and Welsh experience suggests public sector venture capital can be a vital ingredient, a stimulus alongside loans from banks

or other venture funds, in the drive to establish new companies.

That should not mean cutting regional spending; rather it could lead to a more effective use of resources.

But even then, in encouraging the entrepreneurial spirit we are only scratching the surface of the problem. With the North still over-dependent on the traditional and declining industries nothing but a significant change in government policy towards capital projects can possibly offer any hope to its 237,519 jobless.

Mr Heath's warnings may have become boringly repetitive to the Chancellor, not to mention Mr Fallon and Mr Merchant. But other Tories who live and work in the region share his concern. "I can see no need for tax cuts," says the Conservative leader in Newcastle city council. "The money could be used to boost public spending."

The former PM has issued his warning. A whole generation is emerging with little prospect of employment; over half the school leavers in the region cannot find work. The looming social tensions, says Mr Heath, are obvious for all to see.

Labour MPs, on the right of their party, are more forthright. They warn of civil disorder. Over emotional, ever the top? Perhaps. But as the other Conservative party may reflect, such levels of unemployment — few job prospects — are unhealthy in any civilised western nation. Democracy has a price.

The Sixth State of the Region Report by the North of England County Councils Association.

Peter Hetherington is the Guardian's Northern Labour and Political Correspondent.

In-house briefing

AN unlikely alliance of Tory right wingers and the Labour party will be voting against the Corporal Punishment Bill when it comes up for a second reading in the Commons on Tuesday night.

The Tory MPs who are threatening to rebel against the government are angry because the Bill enables Britain to comply with a judgement by the European court on human rights allowing parents to write to head teachers to punish their children being sent.

The Tories, who have privately used their own form of corporal punishment against education ministers without success in the back bench education committee, opposed the Bill because it goes too far. Labour and the other opposition parties, protest that it does not go far enough.

SOME of the same Tory MPs are expected to vote against the government earlier in the day when the Commons is asked to rush through some urgently required extra money for the Community Missions. The Tories may also be interested to know that the government will be under attack on the Criminal Justice Bill from a formidable alliance of Lord Elwyn Jones (Lab), Lord Wigoder (Lib), Lord Hutchinson (SDP) and the former Master of Rolls, Lord Denning. They are opposing the controversial proposal to allow the Attorney General to appeal against sentences which it is judged are too lenient.

The Opposition, clearly realising their day for debate in the Commons will be overshadowed by the Lords, have chosen Wednesday to attack the closure of post offices.

TWO important back bench bills also air an airing. Mr Chris Smith (Lab, Islington South) will be seeking to abolish the much abused catch-all section two of the Official Secrets Act with a Bill to test support on Tuesday; and on Friday Miss Janet Fookes (Con, Plymouth Drake) will be seeking a second reading for her Bill to make "kerb crawling and harassment of women an offence."

Colin Brown



The power and the boredom—it's a hard job, parliament

Austin Mitchell
Darren Marshall

IN ANY international union of legislators and related trades, British MPs must be the least successful branch. The least adequate research and secretarial assistance, the worst offices, the lowest pay and allowances of any of their counterparts in major advanced industrial democracies, all indicate that in any real test of power, using it to advance self-interest, we have failed.

Whether MPs themselves realise this is another matter. Concepts of what the job is and, therefore, what it involves differ more widely in Britain than in most parliaments. So why not let MPs speak for themselves on their job and what they need to do it by a process of shop floor consultation never tried before.

Stephen Drives (and wine editor)

This was what the All Party Reform Group set out to do. We sent a questionnaire to all MPs, an important exercise to which half of the total membership, two thirds of the backbenchers, replied.

To my surprise, MPs are not unhappy in their work: 33 per cent considered the role of the backbencher to be "very satisfactory", half (more of the Conservatives than Labour) "fairly" satisfactory, only 12 per cent found it "not very" satisfactory and only a mere 4 per cent positively unsatisfactory.

Threequarters felt that the work load is increasing. Yet mechanisation had not gone far to meet it. Under a third had a word processor. However 60 per cent thought the secretarial assistance available to be "adequate", and only 15 per cent found it "seriously" inadequate, while the plea for more research assistance was muted. Only 7 per cent had a full-time researcher and 47 per cent someone part-

time. Nevertheless, two fifths found this "adequate", only a quarter "very inadequate". "Give us the tools and we'll finish the job" is not an overwhelming cry.

Perhaps because no one is very sure of what the job is. "Contributing to the national debate" was viewed as the main job. "Spokesman for local interests" came second (first among Labour members), and the more traditional role of "checking the executive" third, because it was much lower among Labour priorities than among Conservatives.

The "local ombudsman" role, taking up the citizens' grievances against the machine, came fourth and next the related local welfare office role with MPs as overpaid, but undertrained, social workers pursuing social security problems which have been such a growth industry in recent years.

This relegated important traditional roles to lowly placings. Party politician, the

basis on which they were elected and the dominant feature of what is essentially government by party, was sixth, considered very important by only a fifth of members. Educator and explainer was seventh, and legislator, specialist, even trainee minister was least important of all.

Power may be the consolation prize for impotence but backbenchers do not see it as central to their preoccupation to prevent overheating in the relatively more prosperous areas. Mr Heath, of course, went further, calling for State planning on the scale of the early sixties; an argument which appears treacherously corporatist to his opponents.

The two MPs, anticipating another gloomy state-of-the-region report, jumped in with both feet. "Each previous report has been a doom-laden beggars' charter and a very poor advertisement for the region," they whined.

The chief executive of Cambridgeshire county council, Mr Rowland Whitfield, pointed out that the cost of unemployment in the Northern region (Tyne and Wear, Northumberland, Durham, Cleveland and Cumbria) was now a billion pounds a year — "a massive waste of human resources."

But the two MPs have a plan which deserves to be taken seriously. They have been on a study tour of the USA and will shortly publish new proposals aimed at "revitalising private enterprise and wealth creation." That will involve abolishing

petty restrictions on business those tiresome employment protection measures, health and safety at work acts and a few other statutory provisions besides perhaps — in favour of measures that will help create fresh jobs.

But the implication that New Tech industries will be attracted by a truly free labour market, where private enterprise can let rip unimpeded by petty restrictions, flies in the face of all experience.

Remember Sir Geoffrey Howe's once cherished enterprise zones: the small areas, with tightly drawn boundaries where industries would be spared the burden of rates and petty planning restrictions? In truth, the most successful — Clydebank for instance — have benefited not from this rates moratorium but from substantial sums of government money — factory building, land clearance, environmental works — even venture capital channels through a Scottish or Welsh development agency.

More importantly, the arrival of the big semi-conductor companies in Scotland's silicon Glen can be attributed to the considerable clout of the SDA and the Scottish Office. The co-ordination can only be successful with (more) public money. In reality, an emerging High Tech sector can only be successful with substantial public investment.

That places the English regions at a considerable disadvantage — a fact acknowledged by Mr Heath in his Sunderland speech — although strangely they have Right chosen to ignore this glaring anomaly.

The Scottish and Welsh experience suggests public sector venture capital can be a vital ingredient, a stimulus alongside loans from banks

or other venture funds, in the drive to establish new companies.

That should not mean cutting regional spending; rather it could lead to a more effective use of resources.

But even then, in encouraging the entrepreneurial spirit we are only scratching the surface of the problem. With the North still over-dependent on the traditional and declining industries nothing but a significant change in government policy towards capital projects can possibly offer any hope to its 237,519 jobless.

Mr Heath's warnings may have become boringly repetitive to the Chancellor, not to mention Mr Fallon and Mr Merchant. But other Tories who live and work in the region share his concern. "I can see no need for tax cuts," says the Conservative leader in Newcastle city council. "The money could be used to boost public spending."

The former PM has issued his warning. A whole generation is emerging with little prospect of employment; over half the school leavers in the region cannot find work. The looming social tensions, says Mr Heath, are obvious for all to see.

Labour MPs, on the right of their party, are more forthright. They warn of civil disorder. Over emotional, ever the top? Perhaps. But as the other Conservative party may reflect, such levels of unemployment — few job prospects — are unhealthy in any civilised western nation. Democracy has a price.

The Sixth State of the Region Report by the North of England County Councils Association.

Peter Hetherington is the Guardian's Northern Labour and Political Correspondent.

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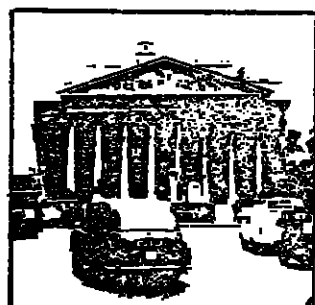
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Now is the logical time for someone to make a late move on freight Dunlop



NOTEBOOK

Edited by
Peter Rodgers

THE late timing of yesterday's intervention in the Dunlop reconstruction is not as bizarre as it looks. Anybody who wanted to get involved would sensibly have

waited until the financial reconstruction document had been published. Dunlop's figures have been a black hole and are still surrounded by uncertainties but at least there is now an up to date set, published 48 hours before the raid on the preference shares. Time enough for corporate finance specialists to digest them.

Of course the stake could have been bought by a friendly party, anxious to preempt anybody else snapping them up and inducing the entire extraordinary meeting next month. This seems unlikely, as the shares were apparently bought from a number of institutions and did not represent a threatening parcel floating round the market.

Another theory is that an angry holder of American Depository Receipts could be out to block or blackmail at the BTR, for better terms. That doesn't quite stand up, because with such a purely negative motive it

is more than likely that the banks which are in the driving seat would call an attacker bluff. After all, the banks have wrapped a tight security net around Dunlop for themselves anyway, in that they would have the media call on what would be left in a break up, and they haven't been over-enthusiastic in rescuing it.

That leaves the possibility of somebody buying the shares for positive motives (though perhaps not friendly to Sir Michael Edwards and the banks). Dunlop's earnings on its remaining businesses are hardly enough to support the debt servicing. The company could be struggling for less than £50 million for the shares, but the true cost after taking on the debts would be more like half a billion pounds.

So wonderful ideas for turning round the ruin of Dunlop, as BTR or Hanson Trust, make no sense unless other factors such as the use of Dunlop's huge tax losses

come into it. An outsider, independent of the banks, might well make a better job of it all anyway. Perhaps this is the story that ought to be true even if it isn't.

Cliffhanger

IT IS notoriously difficult for the government itself to forecast its own borrowing with any accuracy, simply because it is the difference between two very large numbers for revenue and spending. Add in all the baroque little items (such as special sales of assets) which now adorn the Public Sector Borrowing Requirement and you have a genuinely wayward mistress, as a Minister once called sterling M3.

Yesterday's figures show a PSBR in December which is provisionally estimated at £6.6 billion — £573 million to be precise — which is at the top end of City's analysts' recent expectations.

The good news, however, is that the provisional figure for November has been revised downwards, so that the cumulative borrowing figure for the nine months of this financial year is £10 billion.

That is not so wildly out of line with the Government's revised forecast of £8.5 billion. Some analysts, at least, can still nurture a hope or two that it will come in fairly close. The point worth noting is that the front-end loading on the PSBR makes the whole exercise something of a cliffhanger.

The best estimate is that about £500 million of the money from accelerated VAT payments by importers came in in December, with the budget forecast implying that there is another £700 million to come. In addition, North Sea revenues should be higher than the falling pound. And mainstream corporation tax and Schedule D income tax is also due be-

tween now and the end of the financial year.

The Treasury will only say two things about the PSBR outcome pending its finalised forecasts. The first is that the £8.5 billion has clearly been overtaken both because the miners' strike has run on beyond Christmas (when it was assumed to end, and because higher interest rates mean higher debt servicing costs).

The second is that no off-setting items apart from those already accounted for in the Autumn forecast have so far come to light. The implication is that the £8.5 billion is going to be exceeded, but we have no official guesses about how much. It is worth noting, however, that the Treasury's best guess is probably of at least that order of magnitude. Surely no cause for panic on the funding front.

Odd man

THE newspaper industry needs no lessons on how to conduct a campaign. As we report below, the Newspaper Society, representing more than 1,250 paid for and free regional and local newspapers throughout the country, is rising to defend the industry against fears of being VAT-ed in the March Budget.

But the dire disruption to democracy predicted by the Society drawing on the Price Waterhouse study needs a little salt on its tail. The main problem is to see the worst case, what would happen if the Government imposed 15 per cent VAT on both newspaper cover prices, and on the advertisements on which the paid for weeklies in particular depend for up to 90 per cent income.

VAT on ads looks more damaging for the provincial press than for the national

press, whose corporate customers could reclaim the tax. Small local newspapers rely much more on personal advertising.

But it is very much a patchwork, because the economic health and revenue sources of provincial papers varies widely round the regions. As Price Waterhouse pointed out yesterday, this sample of 14 papers is very small and "more useful for general results". It does show that what is in effect double taxation for many of them — on cover price and ads — would be too harsh a measure.

Yet a breakdown of the way Europe treats its press reveals that the vast majority, barring Britain and Greece, impose VAT, at widely varying rates, and a minority impose generally low rates if at all on cover price as well. So Britain would look decidedly odd-man-out if VAT was imposed both ways.

New stake calls reconstruction into question

Big buy-up of Dunlop shares

By James Ertelmann
and Margaret Pagan

A large chunk of crucial preference shares in Dunlop were swiftly picked up in the market yesterday morning only minutes after dealings in the shares resumed after the reconstruction scheme was unveiled earlier this week.

News of the purchase prompted market speculation that a potential bidder, thought to be the BTR industrial conglomerate, due to launch a bid for the debt-ridden tyre company this morning. Market speculation suggested a price of 35p a share.

At 10 am Hoare Govett, the stockbrokers, bought more than 25 per cent — or 14.7 million — of the preference shares, which would have cost the buyer around £2 million. The preference shares opened

at 30p but are understood to have changed hands at between 30p and 40p.

BTR was widely tipped to be the predator, but there was no comment available from the board last night.

Anyone with 25 per cent of the preference shares has the power to block or blackmail the entire reconstruction package put together by Dunlop and the banks to save the company from collapse. The rescue package must be approved by at least 75 per cent of both the preference and ordinary shareholders at the extraordinary meeting to be held on February 8.

One explanation as to the motive behind yesterday's share purchase is that one of the shareholders, who will see their stakes drastically di-

luted in the package, hopes to use the preference stake as a means to scupper the deal or get the terms improved. One such group could be the American owners of at least 27 per cent of Dunlop shares held in the entire reconstruction package.

Dunlop board said last night that Dunlop believes that the purchase has been carried out as the prelude to an "alternative rescue package".

Dunlop's ordinary shares, which were suspended at 25p, opened at 23p yesterday, far higher than any previous estimates. They gathered pace during the day and finished trading up at 31p. At this price the debt-ridden tyre is capitalised at some £45 million. The group's total debts are £435 million.

Dunlop directors last night were locked in meetings with

their banks. They refused to use the preference stake as a comment, the new of the purchase and the implications that there is now another shareholder in the wings with a substantial chunk of the preference shares.

BTR, which was formerly called the Birmingham Tyre and Rubber Company, moved early out of the disastrous tyre industry and built a huge industrial conglomerate by aggressive takeovers taking it into new fields. Two years ago it bought the Thomas Tilling group for more than £600 million. But many of its interests in rubber, engineering and high technology materials would dovetail neatly with many of Dunlop's more profitable manufacturing businesses such as its aviation brakes, consumer sporting goods and a range of domestic foam rubber

Fighting against the fakers

By John Hooper,
Trade Correspondent

THE International Chamber of Commerce yesterday launched a body to deal with the growing problem of product and trademark counterfeiting. It is estimated that industry loses some \$60 billion worldwide each year because of fake goods.

The Counterfeiting Intelligence Bureau, as the new organisation is called, will be based in London. Its director is Mr Eric Ellen, a former chief constable of the Port of London Authority who is also director of ICC's International Maritime Bureau, set up five years ago to fight

Mr Hans Koenig, the secretary general of the International Chamber of Commerce said: "The CIB marks the first concerted international initiative by the world business community to crack



Mr Ellen — director

down on a crime that not only is causing growing damage to industry but also poses serious health and safety hazards to consumers." Mr Ellen said that in recent years 12 people had died in the United States after taking counterfeit capsules, phlegmines, a Korean coffee crop had been ruined by counterfeit fertiliser and 600 Nato helicopters had been found to contain fake spare parts.

He added that there was growing evidence of organised crime involving a counterfeit manufacture, especially in Japan. Among the other countries named by the CIB's technical adviser, Mr Alain Thierri, as having counterfeiters are Morocco, Turkey, Greece, Brazil, Mexico, Venezuela, Taiwan, Singapore, Hong Kong and the Philippines. But he added that the practice was also widespread in developed countries, as phlegmines, a Korean coffee crop had been ruined by counterfeit fertiliser and 600 Nato helicopters had been found to contain fake spare parts.

The US operation is being closed down partly because the group believes it sensible to base all manufacture of its DMS system at a single plant and partly because the weakness of sterling has made it cost-effective to ship from the UK to the US market, rather than manufacture locally.

The new job losses will mean that ICL's total workforce has fallen from 33,000 in 1980, before the group encountered the financial problems which forced a government rescue loan guarantee, to only 21,000 while the number of workers employed in its manufacturing activities will have more than halved over the same period to 3,400.

Concern grows in US over long-term effect of strong dollar

From Alex Brummer
in Washington

Finance Ministers of the big five industrial countries were locked in private discussion in the US yesterday amid the first indications that the United States is becoming as concerned as its allies about the strong value of the dollar because of its long-term adverse effects on the American domestic economy.

The ministers, including the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Nigel Lawson, had flown into snowbound Washington on Wednesday evening and went straight to work over dinner at the Four Seasons Hotel in Georgetown where the collapse of the pound and the disruption of other European currency markets forced the US on to the defensive.

The concern felt about American inaction on its budget and its impact on the international economy was emphasised yesterday by the news that Mrs Thatcher will be making a second post-election trip to Washington next month when the difficulties in the international economy are expected to rank with arms control at the top of the agenda.

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The goal, according to senior monetary officials closely in touch with the Group of Five meeting, is to establish some form of "enhanced surveillance" — or rules of conduct — for the management of the American and other industrial countries so that their fiscal policies are brought more in line. To make this work will require other industrial countries to apply concentrated political pressure on the Reagan administration in an effort to bring down a budget deficit projected at \$218 billion this year rising to \$250 billion by 1987 — without policy changes.

To achieve this will need more frequent inspections of the US books, setting budgetary targets similar to the monetary targets which IMF economists believe were responsible for reducing inflation in the early 1980s as well as political will. The decision of President Reagan's Administration, as an embargo on the term, is hardly likely to inspire confidence that this process can work very quickly.

The prospect of these continuing larger budget deficits and little official action to stem them has kept the dollar strong this year despite efforts by the Federal Reserve, America's central bank, to reduce interest rates. It had been hoped within the Administration that the drop in short-term US interest rates would take some downward pressure off the dollar.

This tactic having clearly failed there is now some debate within the Administration about whether the time has come to change intervention policy.

The public accounts committee, which has been set up to investigate and report on the Revenue's expenditure, said it was bound to have a deterrent effect.

The MPs also called on the Revenue to consider expanding its investigations into more sophisticated areas of tax evasion. Specialised investigation work which concentrates on stamping out what the Revenue calls "artificial avoidance schemes" is one field where the MPs agree there might be scope for stepping up action.

The other areas are multinational companies which set up arrangements to understate their UK profits to lessen their tax bills.

The international section looking at these schemes known as transfer pricing work is staffed with 25 Revenue employees but has been occupied with work on international tax avoidance legislation.

Small unit devoted to plugging tax loopholes exploited by schemes like Rostinners could also be expanded, said the report. "We trust that the Revenue's review of specialised investigation work will look carefully at the need and scope for expanding the capacity of these two important units," said the MPs.

Warburg Investment Management announced yesterday that it effectively controls a 15.05 per cent stake in Fleet Holdings, publishers of the Daily and Sunday Express and tipped for a takeover bid.

This large managed stake places Warburg in the position of power-broker, should United Newspapers, with a near 19 per cent holding under its belt after buying Mr Robert Maxwell's stake, decide to seek control.

The 12.7 million shares are held in a range of funds advised or run by Warburg investment managers, and include a 5 per cent stake in United Newspapers.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Terminal welcome

BRITISH Airways, in its formal response to the Eire inquiry into the third London airport, yesterday endorsed the recommendations for a fifth terminal at Heathrow and the development of Stansted for the expansion of the Government to approve the construction of the new Heathrow terminal without delay.

The state airline's welcome for the expansion of Stansted is rather lukewarm in comparison with its wholehearted support for a fifth Heathrow terminal. Earlier this week, BA had applauded the statement by the British Airports Authority that the Eire recommendations should be accepted, but it was not clear whether both that financial returns from Stansted will be less favourable than from expanding Heathrow, and that there will be little future passenger demand in south-east England — which cannot be met by Heathrow and Gatwick.

BA also announced that it is to increase its support for the regional airports by launching a twice-weekly flight from Manchester to Hong Kong this autumn.

LAST year was by far the best for North Sea oil and gas drilling, according to a report published yesterday. The report, from Petroleum Information, said that 275 exploration and appraisal wells were drilled off the coast of north-west Europe 49 more than during 1982.

The most active operator was Shell with 27 wells, followed by Conoco with 16 and BP with 14. The success rate was also higher last year. Of the 199 exploration wells, 31 found new accumulations of oil or gas, a success rate of 22 per cent, compared with 17 per cent the year before.

SAUDI Arabia's crude oil production rose to between 3.7 million and 3.8 million barrels a day in January from 3 to 3.2 million in mid-December, according to private oil industry sources in Saudi Arabia. Current production is the highest since October, when it averaged about 3.7 million barrels daily. Estimates still leave production well below the 4.5 million limit assigned to Saudi Arabia under the October Opec agreement.

HIGH-RANKING officials from Iran and Jordan, said yesterday that their countries were pushing ahead with plans to build an oil pipeline to Jordan's Red Sea port, Akaba. Observers have criticised the Iranian pipeline project dead when Iraq began construction of a similar size pipeline through Saudi Arabia to the Red Sea port of Yanbu.

TECHNOLOGY Incorporated has launched a £3.6 million bid for UK mechanical engineering. Butterfield-Harvey, which is 11 per cent owned by a springboard, in addition, it has options and conversion rights which, if exercised, would give it 55.3 per cent of the enlarged capital.

VAT 'could close papers'

Up to 7,000 newspaper jobs could be lost, and more than 100 regional dailies and weekly titles closed if 15 per cent VAT is imposed on newspaper cover prices and advertisement revenue in the March Budget, the Government was warned yesterday.

These findings are in a survey carried out by accountants and consultants. Price Waterhouse into the impact of VAT on the regional and local newspaper industry. It is part of a high-powered campaign by the Newspaper Society against possible government moves to change the current zero rating on cover prices and advertisements.

The report is based on a study of the impact of VAT on 14 newspaper groups across the country, picked from the Society's 275 members who publish more than 1,250 paid-for and free newspapers.

The 7,000 job losses would be the most obvious cost-cutting measure to cope with the new financial drain across the country. Journalists, who represent some 7,500 of the total work force, would be worst affected, as news gathering is reduced to a minimum.

The survey also predicts that circulation would drop by 10 per cent, as cover prices rose, advertisements would fall three per cent in volume, company profits be cut sharply by hindering future investment in new technology production processes, and local news coverage would suffer seriously.

It also predicts an acceleration in the well-established trend towards converting paid-for weeklies into free distribution sheets, with lower editorial content, and a further concentration of ownership, benefiting the larger and stronger groups with interests outside newspapers.

Mr Tim Morris, president of the Newspaper Society, said yesterday: "The picture the study paints confirms all our worst fears. We could see 12 or 13 dailies disappear, and another 80 titles."

The role of local newspapers in defending democracy would also be seriously weakened, he said. "But for the paid-for daily and weekly press, who else is going to check on local authorities' power, the courts or the trades unions? We are essential cornerstones."

Mr Ian Park, chairman of the Newspaper Society's government and legal affairs committee, said the 18 regional morning papers were most at risk, and he cited the Plymouth-based Western Morning News as an example. Northern Ireland newspapers were also extremely vulnerable, he said. The survivors, if VAT is imposed, will be the strong.

Output at four-year high

Christopher Huhne
Economics Editor

Manufacturing output rose by nearly 1 per cent in November to record its highest level for four years, according to Central Statistical Office figures yesterday.

The resilience of factory output, which increased by 1.3 per cent taking the last three months compared with the previous three-month period, rose in the consumers' spending of 1.9 per cent in the fourth quarter and 2.2 per cent over the year.

The index of the output of the production industries as a whole, which adds energy to the manufacturing figures, shows a small fall of 0.3 per cent in November as North Sea production fell back from October's high point.

The increase taking three months over the previous three months, a more reliable guide, shows a rise of 2.2 per cent in industrial production as a whole with a slight increase in

coal output from working pits adding the gain.

Recent comparisons are not much affected by the coal dispute, which is estimated to have reduced the level of production by around 34 per cent in both the latest and previous three-month periods. But the fall over the year is 0.2 per cent, as the loss of coal output offset growth elsewhere.

The rise in consumers' spending, which includes vehicle sales and spending on utilities like telephones as well as high street spending, was particularly marked in the fourth quarter after a year which had previously seen little change. It reflects rising real incomes and some rise in employment, the effects of which have more than offset lost miners' spending.

The apparent upward trend in manufacturing, which grew by 2.6 per cent over the year to the last three months, may in part be due to the steady fall in the pound, which particularly benefits trading sectors.

However, the figure for October and November include a revision upwards by 0.5 per cent and 1 per cent respectively to allow for what the CSO calls "understatement in recent provisional figures".

Confirmation of the trend must await further data, but recent figures from the Department of Employment tend to confirm the CSO's optimism since the average monthly increase in manufacturing employment is put at 6,000 over the three months to November.

Manufacturing industry has been little affected by the coal dispute with output being reduced by perhaps half a per cent. The industries which have been growing fastest are electrical engineering, which includes computers and so forth, and chemicals.

The average level of manufacturing output in the last three months is 8.5 per cent higher than the trough in the first quarter of 1981 but still 10.5 per cent below the peak in the second quarter of 1979.

Abbey Life shows an increase

By our Financial Staff

Abbey Life, the UK assurance group which is being prepared for a possible public flotation later this year, yesterday unveiled figures for 1984 which show an increase in premium income from £311 million to £383 million.

The group, owned by IIT, increased single premium sales by one third and notched up increases of between 75 per cent and 122 per cent in Ireland and Germany. The rapid expansion of Abbey was cited by IIT on Wednesday as one of the reasons for seeking a sale of a minority stake.

IIT could probably raise about £100 million with a public offer for a quarter of Abbey Life. Yesterday's results from the group show that the unit trust management side has performed particularly well, with lump sum investments increasing from £14.1 million to £26.3 million.

Self employed pensions rose by 70 per cent to £19.4 million and directors pensions were up by 37 per cent to £7.5 million. Unit linked single premium life and pension figures increased by six per cent.

8,000 jobs vanish in two weeks

By David Simpson,
Business Correspondent

A further 1,350 redundancies in the UK were announced yesterday, taking the total of jobs to be lost in British industry to the first two working weeks of 1983 to 8,000.

The UK computer manufacturer, ICL, recently acquired by STC, is to prune its workforce by 650 while 722 jobs are to be lost at Esso's Mossmorran petrochemical plant in Fife.

The redundancies in Fife come about as the construction of the ethane-cracking plant nears completion, and at least 2,000 workers are expected to be laid off by the summer.

The ICL job losses, all on the group's manufacturing side, stem from a comprehensive reorganisation of its production facilities. About 470 jobs will go at Letchworth in Hertfordshire, where the group's smaller metal component making factory is to be closed all together.

The balance of the redundancies will be at K33prove near Stoke-on-Trent and at Ashton-under-Lyne in the Greater Manchester region. In addition, ICL is to cease manu-

facturing operations in the US, switching production of its Distributed Resource System micro computer to Letchworth from Utica in New York State, prompting 300 job losses at the US plant.

ICL, which opened discussions with its unions on the latest round of job cuts yesterday, said that it hoped some could be accounted for through natural wastage but that due to changing legal requirements, a significant number would be through redundancies.

The US operation is being closed down partly because the group believes it sensible to base all manufacture of its DMS system at a single plant and partly because the weakness of sterling has made it cost-effective to ship from the UK to the US market, rather than manufacture locally.

The new job losses will mean that ICL's total workforce has fallen from 33,000 in 1980, before the group encountered the financial problems which forced a government rescue loan guarantee, to only 21,000 while the number of workers employed in its manufacturing activities will have more than halved over the same period to 3,400.

A catch in the fishing policy

By Rosemary Collins

Fish stocks in EEC waters are being depleted because the operation of the Common Fisheries Policy is dictated by political expediency rather than scientific fact.

Even the over-generous catch quotas agreed by EEC politicians anxious to please their fishing constituents are inadequately checked and enforced, the House of Lords Select Committee on the EEC claims today.

The committee calls for tighter controls and a stronger eye for scientific evidence, and warns that the entry into the EEC of Spain could push the EEC over the brink into total

chaos. Spanish fishermen should not be under any circumstances be allowed to fish in the EEC waters from which they have been excluded since the extension of fishing limits in 1976, except for fish species not covered by current quotas, the committee insists.

Evidence brought before the committee convinced its members that allowable fish catches have routinely exceeded scientific recommendations, based on the need to conserve stocks, because of pressure from fishermen's organisations.

Conservation needs have taken second place to the need to help the industrial fishing fleet, primarily important to

Denmark within the EEC. The Danish fleet currently lands around 1.1 million tonnes of industrially processed fish each year.

The Lords committee accepts that there is no case for a complete ban on industrial fishing, since it exploits species unsuitable for human consumption, but demands that its scale be regulated. Industrially processed fish, part of the diet of human consumption, and the small mesh nets used in industrial fishing necessarily catch substantial quantities of young human consumption fish. Both factors have repercussions on

fish stocks.

Keeping cable

Cable operators should concentrate first on serving domestic markets and customers with screen-based entertainment and services, and only in the longer-term build on products for business and commerce, a major conference on Cabling the City was told yesterday.

Mr Michael Storey, general manager of Westminster Cable, most promising of the first 11 pilot cable franchise areas said that the industry has to build on its sole de facto monopoly, supplying video communications to a residential market,

Warburg's Fleet role

By Maggie Brown

Warburg Investment Management announced yesterday that it effectively controls a 15.05 per cent stake in Fleet Holdings, publishers of the Daily and Sunday Express and tipped for a takeover bid.

This large managed stake places Warburg in the position of power-broker, should United Newspapers, with a near 19 per cent holding under its belt after buying Mr Robert Maxwell's stake, decide to seek control.

The 12.7 million shares are held in a range of funds advised or run by Warburg investment managers, and include a 5 per cent stake in United Newspapers.

Growth unchecked at MFI

By Tony May

Not even the snow looks like checking growth at MFI, the fast-growing furniture group which has assembled a 22 per cent increase in first-half profits, and is expanding both its margins and selling space.

A couple of years ago the group would have been worried by the effect of blizzards on sales during its prime selling month, January. Now it is its sales right through to March, giving customers and delivery men a chance to get through.

On turnover up 15 per cent — 11 per cent from new selling space and 4 per cent from increased volume — profits bounded from £15.6 million to £19 million in the six months to November 24. The interim is up 17p to 22p.

Derek Hunt, the chairman, yesterday described trading this year as "OK so far," and said that volume was up slightly.

The latest rise in interest rates cannot help the group's prospects, but Mr Hunt said: "It depends on whether the mortgage rate goes up, by how much, and for how long." Even so, he expects group profit

growth in the second half at least to match that in the first. The market is looking for between £45 million and £47 million for the full year.

The group's profits are made up 30 per cent from sales of kitchens, 30 per cent from bedroom furniture with the rest coming from sales of Taiwanese Chippendale, bathroom fixtures, and dining room furniture.

One new venture will be the sale of carpets from 70 or 80 stores over the next six months. The carpet sales could spell the end of the in-store concession granted to Harris Queensway, but no talks have been held on this yet.

The group's other plan for increasing sales is to tap the US market. While this has proved to be a graveyard for many British companies, MFI is biding its time. It has been conducting market research for five years now and plans to set up four testbeds in Philadelphia to assess the strength of the market for kitchens and see which sales formula works best. The shops will trade as "Priceless."

Meanwhile, the malapropos of growth will be the store expansion programme, which is



Derek Hunt: looking to the US

already on course to grow from 125 stores to 133 stores by the end of May, giving a trading floor of 4 million square feet, with another mil-

Equities surge ahead but gilts are unsettled

THE MARKETS

The 1,000 mark on the FT index came nearer yesterday as overseas and domestic investors continued to invest heavily into UK equities. The upsurge began as soon as the market opened, and only ran out of steam a little at around lunch-time, so that best levels were not always held. Nevertheless, there were numerous speculative rises in many sectors as jobbers scrambled to find stock that was becoming increasingly in short supply.

Against the trend, gilts lost half a point as the FT figures signalled an overshoot for the year of more than 22 billion. Oils too, were dull at first, on reports of large levels of stock on offer late the previous evening. However, they later rallied to close little changed.

Of the top 30 blue chips, ICI stood out with a 10p rise to 785p in front of next month's interim figures.

British

THE LATEST wheeze for making money under the new tax regime is to buy shares in a company which would buy, restore and then sell vintage and classic cars. Antique and Collectors Cars is doing this, through Eborac House & Sons and depends heavily on the expertise of the managing director, Mr Christopher Drake. The venture carries the usual "high risk" warning.

Telecom, which is launching a revolutionary new public telephone box, rose 4p to another peak of 128p. Newspapers, buildings and foods were sectors to attract special attention. Stores were overshadowed by the threat of a possible mortgage rate increase today, with MFI 3p lower at 240p, the 22 per cent profits increase already discounted.

A classic bear squeeze helped Dunlop return from suspension at 32p, up 7p, after opening at around 30p. There were also investors who were prepared to back the leader of Sir Michael Edwards in his attempt to get the company back on its feet.

Among companies reporting, Dowty pleased with a better-than-expected 68 per cent earnings expansion. The share price closed higher at 218p, in contrast there was disappointment at Davy Corp as the company reported profits up by 43

per cent. Some had been looking for a 10 per cent increase. The shares lost 8p to 86p, underpinned to some extent by hopes of an eventual takeover.

Banks and insurance failed to hold early modest improvements. Fees reflected favourable press comment, with gains into double figures. Properties gave back some of Wednesday's losses, ending upsurge began as soon as the market opened, and only ran out of steam a little at around lunch-time, so that best levels were not always held. Nevertheless, there were numerous speculative rises in many sectors as jobbers scrambled to find stock that was becoming increasingly in short supply.

Against the trend, gilts lost half a point as the FT figures signalled an overshoot for the year of more than 22 billion. Oils too, were dull at first, on reports of large levels of stock on offer late the previous evening. However, they later rallied to close little changed.

Of the top 30 blue chips, ICI stood out with a 10p rise to 785p in front of next month's interim figures.

British

● **Frankfurt:** Foreign buying helped shares prices close higher in lively trading Thursday, overcoming persistent rumours of higher West-German interest rates and pulling the market index to a post-war high. The Commerzbank index rose 2.3 to 1,151.8.

● **Paris:** Shares were higher in active trading. The general market indicator was up 0.59 per cent.

● **Tokyo:** Prices dropped in heavy trading after the Tokyo stock exchange tightened its requirements for margin trading, the buying and selling of shares on credit. Nikkei Dow Jones index: 11,887.19 (11,933.02).

● **Hong Kong:** Prices surged ahead in active trading, boosted by a wave of local buying. Hang Seng index: 1,388.42 (1,368.51).

COMMODITIES

Copper: Feb 229.5 per tonne; (three months 230.5; six months 231.5; nine months 232.5; Dec 233.5; Jan 234.5; Feb 235.5; Mar 236.5; Apr 237.5; May 238.5; Jun 239.5; Jul 240.5; Aug 241.5; Sep 242.5; Oct 243.5; Nov 244.5; Dec 245.5; Jan 246.5; Feb 247.5; Mar 248.5; Apr 249.5; May 250.5; Jun 251.5; Jul 252.5; Aug 253.5; Sep 254.5; Oct 255.5; Nov 256.5; Dec 257.5; Jan 258.5; Feb 259.5; Mar 260.5; Apr 261.5; May 262.5; Jun 263.5; Jul 264.5; Aug 265.5; Sep 266.5; Oct 267.5; Nov 268.5; Dec 269.5; Jan 270.5; Feb 271.5; Mar 272.5; Apr 273.5; May 274.5; Jun 275.5; Jul 276.5; Aug 277.5; Sep 278.5; Oct 279.5; Nov 280.5; Dec 281.5; Jan 282.5; Feb 283.5; Mar 284.5; Apr 285.5; May 286.5; Jun 287.5; Jul 288.5; Aug 289.5; Sep 290.5; Oct 291.5; Nov 292.5; Dec 293.5; Jan 294.5; Feb 295.5; Mar 296.5; Apr 297.5; May 298.5; Jun 299.5; Jul 300.5; Aug 301.5; Sep 302.5; Oct 303.5; Nov 304.5; Dec 305.5; Jan 306.5; Feb 307.5; Mar 308.5; Apr 309.5; May 310.5; Jun 311.5; Jul 312.5; Aug 313.5; Sep 314.5; Oct 315.5; 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Apr 1293.5; May 1294.5; Jun 1295.5; Jul 1296.5; Aug 1297.5; Sep 1298.5; Oct 1299.5; Nov 1300.5; Dec 1301.5; Jan 1302.5; Feb 1303.5; Mar 1304.5; Apr 1305.5; May 1306.5; Jun 1307.5; Jul 1308.5; Aug 1309.5; Sep 1310.5; Oct 1311.5; Nov 1312.5; Dec 1313.5; Jan 1314.5; Feb 1315.5; Mar 1316.5; Apr 1317.5; May 1318.5; Jun 1319.5; Jul 1320.5; Aug 1321.5; Sep 1322.5; Oct 1323.5; Nov 1324.5; Dec 1325.5; Jan 1326.5; Feb 1327.5; Mar 1328.5; Apr 1329.5; May 1330.5; Jun 1331.5; Jul 1332.5; Aug 1333.5; Sep 1334.5; Oct 1335.5; Nov 1336.5; Dec 1337.5; Jan 1338.5; Feb 1339.5; Mar 1340.5; Apr 1341.5; May 1342.5; Jun 1343.5; Jul 1344.5; Aug 1345.5; Sep 1346.5; Oct 1347.5; Nov 1348.5; Dec 1349.5; Jan 1350.5; Feb 1351.5; Mar 1352.5; Apr 1353.5; May 1354.5; Jun 1355.5; Jul 1356.5; Aug 1357.5; Sep 1358.5; Oct 1359.5; Nov 1360.5; Dec 1361.5; Jan 1362.5; Feb 1363.5; Mar 1364.5; Apr 1365.5; May 1366.5; Jun 1367.5; Jul 1368.5; Aug 1369.5; Sep 1370.5; Oct 1371.5; Nov 1372.5; Dec 1373.5; Jan 1374.5; Feb 1375.5; Mar 1376.5; Apr 1377.5; May 1378.5; Jun 1379.5; Jul 1380.5; Aug 1381.5; Sep 1382.5; Oct 1383.5; Nov 1384.5; Dec 1385.5; Jan 1386.5; Feb 1387.5; Mar 1388.5; Apr 1389.5; May 1390.5; Jun 1391.5; Jul 1392.5; Aug 1393.5; Sep 1394.5; Oct 1395.5; Nov 1396.5; Dec 1397.5; Jan 1398.5; Feb 1399.5; Mar 1400.5; Apr 1401.5; May 1402.5; Jun 1403.5; Jul 1404.5; Aug 1405.5; Sep 1406.5; Oct 1407.5; Nov 1408.5; Dec 1409.5; Jan 1410.5; Feb 1411.5; Mar 1412.5; Apr 1413.5; May 1414.5; Jun 1415.5; Jul 1416.5; Aug 1417.5; Sep 1418.5; Oct 1419.5; Nov 1420.5; Dec 1421.5; Jan 1422.5; Feb 1423.5; Mar 1424.5; Apr 1425.5; May 1426.5; Jun 1427.5; Jul 1428.5; Aug 1429.5; Sep 1430.5; Oct 1431.5; Nov 1432.5; Dec 1433.5; Jan 1434.5; Feb 1435.5; Mar 1436.5; Apr 1437.5; May 1438.5; Jun 1439.5; Jul 1440.5; Aug 1441.5; Sep 1442.5; Oct 1443.5; Nov 1444.5; Dec 1445.5; Jan 1446.5; Feb 1447.5; Mar 1448.5; Apr 1449.5; May 1450.5; Jun 1451.5; Jul 1452.5; Aug 1453.5; Sep 1454.5; Oct 1455.5; Nov 1456.5; Dec 1457.5; Jan 1458.5; Feb 1459.5; Mar 1460.5; Apr 1461.5; May 1462.5; Jun 1463.5; Jul 1464.5; Aug 1465.5; Sep 1466.5

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

STIRLING

Where Scotland's past meets the future

Assistant Director (Research and Development) £12,815 - £14,058
Principal Housing Officer (Maintenance) £11,382 - £12,417
Principal Officer (Lettings) £11,332 - £12,417

Assistant Director
Following the appointment of the existing postholder to that of Director of Housing and Architecture with another Authority, applications are invited from professionals, qualified in one or more of the following:

Housing, Planning, Architecture and Management
Stirling District Council is committed to creating and providing a modern, efficient and professional housing service. A wide range of opportunities are already under way within the Department, not only within the public sector but also through the Housing Association movement and the private sector.

The primary task of the Assistant Director will be to contribute significantly to the vision, by leading a small team responsible for providing housing research, management information, architectural input, the preparation of the Housing Plan and developing methods of tenant liaison.

The post has specific responsibility for housing research as well as the conception and implementation of a wide range of housing initiatives.

The successful applicant will be required to demonstrate a high degree of initiative and should have a record of positive achievement within the housing sector, a working knowledge of computer techniques and an ability to undertake analytical work. An imaginative approach to problem solving is essential.

Principal Housing Officer
We seek a self-motivated individual with the Technical and Managerial skills to develop and implement a comprehensive Maintenance Policy for the District's 12,800 Council houses.

The successful candidate will be required to continue the many new initiatives which will ensure that the District Council housing stock is maintained to the high standards which the Maintenance Section has promoted with the co-operation of other Departments of the District Council.

The successful applicant must be able to demonstrate his/her ability to assess the technical and managerial requirements and report on them, estimate and complete such repairs, prepare and manage a budget and expenditure of £3 million p.a., supervise and motivate the personnel employed by the Department for which the successful candidate will be responsible.

The ideal candidate will be professionally qualified in a building discipline. He/she will have experience of maintenance management within the public or private sector and have a proven record of management within a maintenance team.

Principal Officer
Applications are invited for this post where the opportunity exists for a housing professional to develop new ideas and initiatives.

He/she will be directly responsible to the Director of Housing for the working of the Lettings Section with specific responsibility for all housing allocations throughout the District and the operation of the Homeless Persons Act.

The Lettings Section consists of the Principal Officer (Lettings), seven other staff and two weekend careworkers handling an average turnover of 650 housing tenancies per year and some 450 applications under the Homeless Persons Act.

The District Council's housing stock currently stands at 12,800 dwellings. The housing allocation system within the District has recently been completed and a wide range of new and improved policies and more positive policies are currently in preparation. The successful applicant will have an active part in this process and he/she will have a direct influence on developing future policy.

The ideal candidate will be a fully qualified Member of the Institute of Housing with previous management and housing allocations experience.

Applications may seek further information by telephone from David Johnston, Director of Housing, Stirling 70000 Ext. 243. Application forms and job plans may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, Stirling District Council, Stirling, Tel. Stirling 70000 Ext. 201, and should be returned by 31 January 1985.

The Council is an Equal Opportunities Employer and encourages applications from people regardless of marital status, sex, race or disability.

BELGRAVE BAHENO WOMENS CENTRE - LEICESTER
Belgrave Baheno is a voluntary organisation based in Belgrave, an inner Area Priority Zone with an 80% Gujarati population. The Project is funded through the Inner Area Programme to meet needs of women and girls, and in particular, Asian women and girls living within the area.

The postholder will be responsible for leading a mature outlook with a sound knowledge of the needs of Asian women and girls and be essentially sympathetic to the approach adopted by Belgrave Baheno in meeting these needs.

No formal qualifications will be required for any of the posts, however community work experience is essential as is fluency in Gujarati and English, (preferably Hindi as well), and the ability to work evenings and weekends.

BUILDING ACTIVITIES ORGANISER
Salary Scale 4 £6264 - £7005 (+ pay award pending)

The worker will be responsible for building management, administration, supervision of volunteers and seasonal staff and for the formulation of a full programme of activities.

Therefore previous experience in these areas of work, especially general organisational duties, is preferable.

ACTIVITIES SUPERVISOR/ INFORMATION WORKER
Salary Scale 4 £6264 - £7005 (+ pay award pending)

The worker will be responsible for the implementation of a full programme of activities with special responsibility for the development of outdoor and sports activities. This worker will also be required to provide and assist in the development of an advisory service for members on issues such as health, welfare rights etc.

Previous experience in a commitment to sports and other outdoor activities is essential as is a knowledge of general organisational duties and advice work.

For further details please contact:
Rita Patel, Belgrave Baheno Womens Centre,
14 Melrose Street, Leicester LE4 6FA.
Tel: (0533) 967673

Closing date for completed application forms 8th February 1985.

TRAINING AND DEVELOPMENT

The Department of Personnel and Management Services performs an integral function covering Management Services, Industrial Relations, Staffing, Training and Development. It provides a central service to all Departments of the Council. To continue the development and implementation of effective training programmes compatible with the education of employment and training opportunities, we require an

Assistant

Principal Officer

£13,077-£14,049 (Salary Award Pending)

The postholder will lead a team of professional training staff and will be responsible for the co-ordination of training and development for Council employees and Youth Training Scheme trainees.

The successful candidate will have a proven record of achievement in training and development and an innovative approach to the design and presentation of training courses together with an exceptional standard of communication skills.

Locally applicants will be required to degree level and will have a relevant professional qualification (BPA or equivalent).

Application forms and further details are available from the Director of Personnel and Management Services, City of Edinburgh Council, City Chambers, High Street, Edinburgh EH1 1PL. Tel: 01-625 2424, Ext. 6429/10424.

Closing date: 1 February, 1985.

Edinburgh District Council is an equal opportunities employer. Applications are invited from women and men, from all sections of the community, irrespective of ethnic origin, disability or sexual orientation, who have the necessary attributes for the post.

City of Edinburgh

CORPORATE PLANNING OFFICER
Salary range £5,588-£9,539 p.a. inclusive of London Weighting (Pay award pending)

Required to work in the Corporate Planning Unit on the review of the policies, performance and operations of the Council. The Unit provides a central service to all Departments of the Council. To continue the development and implementation of effective training programmes compatible with the education of employment and training opportunities, we require an

The successful candidate will have a proven record of achievement in training and development and an innovative approach to the design and presentation of training courses together with an exceptional standard of communication skills.

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Closing date: 1 February, 1985.

Edinburgh District Council is an equal opportunities employer. Applications are invited from women and men, from all sections of the community, irrespective of ethnic origin, disability or sexual orientation, who have the necessary attributes for the post.

Hillingdon

Applications from disabled persons will be welcomed



National Park Officer

Applications are invited for the above post on the retirement, early in 1985, of the present National Park Officer.

The successful applicant will be the Chief Officer of the Peak Park Joint Planning Board responsible for all the Board's work, including all planning and landscape matters, estates, projects, a study centre, information and ranger services as well as general administration. The Board has undertaken a great deal of pioneering work with other agencies including a recent experiment in integrated rural development.

The post requires a person of proven managerial ability to organise and lead a team of officers of various skills and to negotiate at senior level with a variety of national and local interests. He or she will need to represent effectively in public the views and policies of the Board and to maintain good working relationships with many other authorities and associations.

Applicants should be professionally qualified with many years practical experience. The post is not restricted to any particular profession or background, but experience in town and country planning, land agency, conservation or recreational provision would be helpful. Experience of the workings of the United and Welsh National Parks would be a distinct advantage and although local government experience is not essential, applicants must demonstrate a good understanding of local government at a senior level.

The post will carry considerable national as well as local responsibility and offers a major challenge in reconciling the needs of those who live and work in the Park with the growing public concern for conservation and the pressures for countryside recreation.

The salary scale is £23,235 by five annual increments of £387 to £26,220 per annum. Further details including application form and the job description are available from the Peak National Park Officer, Telephone: Bakewell 0682 8814321, ext. 359. Completed applications should be received not later than 11th February, 1985.

Theo Burrell, National Park Officer,
Aldern House, Baslow Road, Bakewell, Derbyshire, DE4 1AE.

Enterprise Plan Worker
c.£17,000p.a.

Following the conclusion of a secondment we are now looking for someone to play an active role in the generation of employee initiatives which utilise GLEB as a means of saving jobs and promoting the creation of new and more worthwhile employment.

The job would involve working with a small team on worker participation and Industrial Democracy issues.

Every enterprise assisted by GLEB is required to prepare an Enterprise Plan, in which the workforce and the employer jointly set out the strategic framework for investment, covering policies and plans for jobs, industrial relations, trades union recognition, equal opportunities and training as well as the business plan.

The ability to work closely with employers and trades union representatives and to motivate workplace involvement is essential.

Applications will also be considered for part-time, job sharing or secondment.

As an equal opportunity employer we particularly welcome applications from women, members of ethnic minorities and the disabled.

Further details and an application form, which should be returned by 6th February, obtainable from:
Keith Jerome, Director,
Structural Investment Division,
Greater London Enterprise Board Ltd,
63-67 Newington Causeway,
London SE1 6BD.

GLEB is an equal opportunities employer.

Greater London Enterprise Board

DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
Leeds and Liverpool Canal - Remainder Length (Liverpool)

SALARY:
1st year £8,500
2nd Year £8,900
3rd Year £9,300

This important new post based in Liverpool has been created to promote and co-ordinate projects to improve the canal environment and increase leisure use of the waterways.

The Development Officer will need to work effectively with a wide range of organisations including local authorities, statutory bodies and Manpower Services Commission funded agencies, to channel resources into appropriate canal developments.

Applicants must be highly self-motivated and display the ability to work efficiently without close supervision.

The successful candidate will have a flair for identifying opportunities on the canal of benefit to the local community. The Development Officer will secure their financing and implementation whilst fostering the support and interest of the public and media.

The post is a 3 year appointment. Please apply in writing, giving brief details of age and experience to: Senior Personnel Manager, British Waterways Board, P.O. Box 3, 1 Dock Street, Leeds LS1 1HH. Closing date January 25th. Quoting Ref No: 63C. This post is open to men and women.

British Waterways Board

NEWCASTLE HEALTH AUTHORITY
HEARING THERAPIST
Salary scale: £6,012-£7,531 per annum

Applications are invited from candidates who have trained as physiological measurement technicians (audiology) or who have similar experience of working with deaf or hearing-impaired adults, training in audiology or other relevant training or experience.

The successful candidate will provide hearing therapy component of an established service in Newcastle. Initial selection will take place on Monday, January 28, and the successful candidate will then attend a further interview in London for a vacancy on the one year course held at the City Literary Institute, Centre for the Deaf, London, commencing in September. Where no specific academic qualifications are laid down for this course it is at higher education standard.

Applications in writing with details of age, education and experience and the names and addresses of two professional referees to: District Personnel Officer, Newcastle Health Authority, 2-10 Archibald Terrace, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne NE2 1EF. Tel: (0632) 815011, ext. 210. Closing date: January 23, 1985.

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS
DEVELOPMENT OFFICER
COMMUNITY PROGRAMME

We are looking for somebody who is interested in six months' work, in the first instance, to carry out a programme of work, including setting up training courses and developing work with voluntary organisations operating the MSC's Community Programme. If you are interested and available, and think you have the necessary skills and experience, please telephone the Personnel Officer, NCVO, 01-835 4068 for further information. Salary scale: £3,493-£10,729 + £1,300 London Weighting p.a.

NCVO is an equal opportunities employer.

GLASGOW SPECIAL HOUSING GROUP

has a vacancy for a first time appointment of a **RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT WORKER**

The candidate must be able to demonstrate an ability to work on his or her own initiative in developing the work of the Group.

The GSHG aims to promote a more cohesive approach to the housing and social needs of disadvantaged groups. Salary - £3,430 to £10,554 (under review).

Further details may be obtained from:
GSHG
c/o Shelter
53 St Vincent Crescent
Glasgow G3 8NG

HEREFORD & WORCESTER COUNTY COUNCIL
ARCHAEOLOGY DEPARTMENT
SITE SUPERVISOR and ASSISTANT

Required immediately to carry out an evaluation of sites of potential medieval date in the city of Worcester. Candidates should have experience of complex urban excavation and publication.

Salary on local authority Scale 3-5 (£5,640-£7,895). Telephone for further details and application forms to be returned by 25th January to: J. P. Roberts, Archaeology Dept., Hereford & Worcester County Council, Tetbury Square, Worcester, Worcester WR4 9LS. Tel: Worcester (0805) 58606.



Project Leader F.G.O.

Salary: £10,554 pa inclusive

F.G.O. is a community organisation established following the disturbances in 1981. The aims of F.G.O. line development project is to establish a centre for recreation, advice and support for those on the street in the frontline area Central Brixton, with a focus on maintaining family and community links with those imprisoned and/or hospitalised.

Having completed the groundwork, the drop-in centre is due to be opened in February, 1985. F.G.O.'s management committee are now seeking a Project Leader whose overall objective will be to strive for the achievement of project's aim: by ensuring that appropriate systems are developed and maintained for the efficient administration and functioning of the centre. Heading a Team comprising of 3 project workers plus secretarial/admin support. The Project Leader's tasks will include liaison with both statutory and voluntary agencies, supervision of workers, and responsibility for financial budgeting.

Formal qualification in social work/youth work is not essential, but evidence of previous work with 'community setting' coupled with an understanding of problems faced by members of a community, who for a diverse number of reasons are severely disadvantaged.

For further information and application form, contact First Generation Organisation, 57 Trelawn Road, London S.W.2. Tel: 01-737 2154 between 11 am and 4 pm Monday to Friday.

Corporate Planning Officer

Salary Range PO (9-12)

(Currently £12,738 - £13,725 p.a.)

This challenging post has been created for an experienced, innovative and enthusiastic professional who will spearhead new approaches to the Council's corporate activities and their implementation at all levels.

The person appointed will be directly responsible to the Chief Executive and will also advise the Chief Officers' Group on policy planning issues and procedures for translating the Council's objectives into co-ordinated plans and programmes; with systematic monitoring and review arrangements. Other duties relate to employment initiatives, research, VFM studies and specific projects of a corporate nature in the widest possible context. These tasks will demand a high degree of personal commitment, positive attitude and administrative/organisational ability. Graduate applicants preferred but relevant professional qualifications and local government experience in corporate planning or related work are essential requirements.

Relocation expenses and essential car user allowance payable under Council's own schemes. Application form, job description and other details available from the Personnel Officer, Rushmoor Borough Council, Council Offices, Farnborough, Hants. Tel: (0252) 516222 Ext. 211. Closing Date: 4th February, 1985.



BRUNEL UNIVERSITY STUDENTS' UNION

invites applications for the post of

PERMANENT SECRETARY

This is challenging post as head of the Union's 40 staff, and General Manager of its commercial services.

The Union has a free income of c 200K and a commercial t.o. in excess of £1m p.a. Commercial operations include 3 Bars, 3 Academic Bookshops, a Supermarket and Catering outlets.

The work of the Permanent Secretary is directed by the Executive Committee, the Commercial Management Committee and Bar Committee, principally through the President of the Student's Union.

The successful candidate will be an accomplished manager with sound commercial, financial and communicative skills. They will be highly motivated and diplomatic, possessing a good understanding of Student Unions.

Salary: circa £16,000 (inclusive L/W)
Applicants must phone Uxbridge (0895) 39125 by 4pm Monday 21st January, for application form and further details.

B.U.S.U. is an equal opportunity employer.

WEST LAMBETH HEALTH AUTHORITY

ST. THOMAS' HOSPITAL

LONDON SE1 7EH

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

OUTPATIENT SERVICES

GAA Grade £6,967-£8,779 inclusive of London Weighting

We are looking for an experienced and enthusiastic person to join the team of four Assistant Administrators working within the Outpatient Service in the Acute Care Unit based at St Thomas' Hospital.

The post is concerned with the day to day running of some of the general outpatient clinics and the medical record library. Applicants should therefore have a good working knowledge of the medical record function, computing and be able to manage a group of 30 staff.

Applicants should possess or be studying for an appropriate professional qualification. Further details including an application form and job description can be obtained from Miss B. J. Hutton, Administrator Outpatient Services, on 01-929 9292 ext. 2388.

Closing date for completed applications: 31 January 1985. Interviews will be held during the week beginning 4 February 1985.

GWALIA HOUSING MANAGER

circa £10,600

We are looking for a person of proven experience who can motivate, co-ordinate and lead a housing management and maintenance team, in order to provide a high quality of service to our tenants in South and Mid Wales.

A relevant qualification is desirable together with an energetic and committed approach to the aims of the voluntary housing sector.

Good conditions of service are offered as detailed in the job description which is available from Mr. P. J. Cahill, Director of Property Services, Gwalia Housing Society Limited, 125 Walter Road, Swansea SA1 5RG. Tel: (0782) 460608.

Publicity and Information Officer

£10,572 - £11,166

The Strategy and Information Unit has been created to provide the framework of research, information and analysis upon which the Housing Committee can develop its policies and the Housing Directorate can evaluate and monitor its procedures. It is responsible for policy and procedural research, evaluation and advice; the provision of information for Members, Tenants and Officers; training co-ordination and generally for the promotion of the Housing Service in an attractive and informative way.

The Publicity and Information Officer post in the Unit is there because the Housing Committee recognises the need to present the often complex and varied aspects of the Housing Service in a way that is attractive, informative and helpful to tenants and the public generally.

We need someone to join the Unit who is used to assembling and managing information, then using it effectively and imaginatively. A Housing background would be helpful, but most important are an understanding of Housing issues, creativity and imagination combined with a disciplined ability to meet deadlines.

Application form from Directorate of Housing Services, London Borough of Greenwich, Pigeon Middleton House, 39 Woolwich New Road, Woolwich SE18 6PD. Tel: 01-854 5885, Ext. 5791.

Closing date: 1st February, 1985.

THE COUNCIL POSITIVELY WELCOMES APPLICATIONS FROM WOMEN, ETHNIC MINORITIES AND DISABLED PEOPLE

GREENWICH
People and Services First

The BMA is the doctors' professional association and registered trade union. We require the following staff to assist with the servicing of committees, sub-committees and working parties.

COMMITTEE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

£9,898

Responsible for the administration of policies agreed in committee. Applicants must have previous experience in liaising with chairpeople, producing committee documentation, researching and writing reports and organising meetings.

EXECUTIVE OFFICER
£7,939

To assist in the preparation of committee documentation, answer written and verbal queries relating to the committees work and arrange meetings. Previous committee experience is desirable.

Both posts require 'A' levels or degree level education. Please apply in writing, with full career details, to: Barbara Dyer, Personnel Manager, BMA, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JP.

Closing date: 25.1.85.

BMA

HUMBERSIDE COUNTY COUNCIL

EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

Administrative Officer

(Goole) 005430 Scale 5 £7,191-£7,896

To be responsible for the supervision of the work of the Goole Office, and to contribute to the management of the Education Service within the Scunthorpe Division together with attending meetings of Governing Bodies as Clerk for schools in the area.

To obtain application forms please write enclosing a stamped, addressed envelope to the Director of Education, Staffing Section, County Hall, Beverley HU17 9BA. Closing date 1st February 1985.

All applicants are considered on the basis of their suitability for the job irrespective of disability, race, creed, sex or marital status. Disabled candidates whose applications have the written support of their D.R.O. will be guaranteed an interview.

PHOENIX HOUSE

STAFF MEMBER

£8,382 - £9,087

or

£7,455 - £8,196

Phoenix House, the country's largest non-statutory organisation providing services for people with drug problems, require the above for its London Project, which consists of the main 58-bed therapeutic community and a 13-bed re-entry house. A further 10-bed re-entry house is in development. Staff can be expected to work in either location.

For full information and application forms, write or telephone to: Helen Ross, Personnel Services, Phoenix House, 84/88 Church Road, London SE19 2EZ. Tel: 01-771 6122.

PHOENIX HOUSE
An equal opportunities employer

Matthew Engel reports from Madras

India fight back to halt Foster's frolic

CRICKET

There was a moment yesterday when India were 22 for three in their second innings, still 358 runs behind England, and it looked as though they were so ashamed about their performance that they wanted to give up and get away as soon as possible.

The moment passed and by the end of the fourth day they were still in with a chance of saving the fourth Test, thanks to two innings that matched and in some respects even surpassed England's batting earlier. Even if the match is lost, Mohinder Amarnath and Muhammad Azharuddin have done much to restore the reputation of Indian cricket.

With a day to go India were 246 for four, still 134 behind after England had declared at 552 for seven, the fifth highest total in English Test history. Amarnath was out for 95 but Azharuddin was still going, 103 not out. In a match of batting records he has become the fourth player in history to score a century in both his first and second Test matches.

More important than that, it was a glittering century, adding further evidence of a major new batting force has come amongst us. Of the 50-odd players, who started with centuries, a number vanished without trace. Alas, poor R. E. Shodhan and G. J. Coster. The only players to get a century in their first two before yesterday were Ponsford, Kallicharran and Doug Walters. Plus Lawrence Rowe who made two centuries on his debut. Azharuddin is walking with the great.

It could hardly have begun and a bigger crisis. England, as expected, had batted on, but only for five overs and 41 runs, in which time Edmonds slogged happily and got out and Gower was happy. The total of 652 surpassed anything scored in a Test in India and anything England have scored since 1938-39.

Three of the four scores England failed to beat all came in 12 months of the front wickets and Neville Chamberlain: 908 for seven in Hutton's Test against Australia at the Oval in 1938; 658 for eight at Trent Bridge the same summer; and 664 for five in the timeless Test at Durban, following a similar record. There was also the 549 at Kingston in 1929-30.

Gower has never been much of a history man. A couple more balls and this England might have been in the place. But it was enough. The question remaining was whether India's batsmen could or would react well enough to force a draw. Our friendly neighbourhood bookmaker, who does know his history, quoted an Indian win at 50/1. And suddenly India were playing kamikaze again. There were no thoughts of blocking. Gavaskar was off the mark first ball. Srikanth was square-cutting and missing in the first over. And so it went. Gavaskar was gone, having been drawn forward by a Foster delivery that rushed away from his bat to first slip. Gavaskar began the slowest trudge back to a dressing room I think I have ever seen. He was hit by isolated boos. Among ageing cricketers, it is usually not the eyes or the legs that go first, but the will.

Two overs later, Vengsarkar was out flicking Foster off his



BOY WONDER... Azharuddin on the way to his century

toes and getting caught by Downton down the leg side. Srikanth followed. He has no patience for the kind of cricket India needed, and had already hooked Cowans for six, leading Gower to post two long-legs while Cowans kept digging the ball in short. Then he tried it against Foster, and the ball spun high for Cowdrey to run in and grab it. India's star, had taken three for five in 18 balls.

India would have been 38 for four had not Foster, at long leg, been carried over the boundary by the force of an Amarnath hook he caught. But now the batsmen were choosing the right balls to hit, and they were getting more and more of them.

Thereafter, Amarnath played very well indeed. Before his series he had made 24 Test matches but only three in India, for reasons that baffled everyone. In these four Tests he has not been out under 40 and has played the risky shots with a great deal more conviction than anyone else.

But he was quite outshone by Azharuddin, still only 21 and proud possessor of a new scooter. He murdered Pocock, with six fieldsers on the on-side, he found time and room to keep striking the ball off the back foot through the off-side gaps, then play lovely wristy paddle shots down to Nottinghams or Colchester (his new partner in history, Walters, kept failing in England) but on these pitches, he is a lovely batsman.

Pocock had a bad day all round. When Amarnath was hit on the back leg sweeping and, with reasonable grounds, Pocock was convinced he was out, the umpire's rejection was followed by a display of petulance worthy of an Australian fast bowler. It was a bit

like seeing Santa strike a six-year-old. Foster did for Amarnath at the end, or rather Amarnath did, hitting his century, looking once for often and being nicely caught by Cowans. That was Foster's fourth wicket of the innings, and his 10th of the match, the first time he has ever done that.

If three of yesterday's four were not quite as worthy as his first innings six, he deserved his success. Whenever he has looked like taking 10 in a match for Essex, John Lever has got in the way. Here there was less opposition. Cowans never bowled after his first, indifferent, spell. The ball was starting to turn, but only 34-overs were bowling a steady enough line to make it matter.

Once Amarnath played him dangerously near Cowans at wide mid-off and a more flexible man might have caught it. Then Edmonds had a very big shout for a bat-pad against Azharuddin off the last of the day. But Boy Wonder goes on, and so do India's chances of staying at 1-1 in the series. The best of a remarkable Test match might still be to come.

England's first innings: 552 (over 111.5) 1. P. H. Gower 100, 2. D. Walters 100, 3. D. Walters 100, 4. D. Walters 100, 5. D. Walters 100, 6. D. Walters 100, 7. D. Walters 100, 8. D. Walters 100, 9. D. Walters 100, 10. D. Walters 100, 11. D. Walters 100, 12. D. Walters 100, 13. D. Walters 100, 14. D. Walters 100, 15. D. Walters 100, 16. D. Walters 100, 17. D. Walters 100, 18. D. Walters 100, 19. D. Walters 100, 20. D. Walters 100, 21. D. Walters 100, 22. D. Walters 100, 23. D. Walters 100, 24. D. Walters 100, 25. D. Walters 100, 26. D. Walters 100, 27. D. Walters 100, 28. D. Walters 100, 29. D. Walters 100, 30. D. Walters 100, 31. D. Walters 100, 32. D. Walters 100, 33. D. Walters 100, 34. D. Walters 100, 35. D. Walters 100, 36. D. Walters 100, 37. D. Walters 100, 38. D. Walters 100, 39. D. Walters 100, 40. D. Walters 100, 41. D. Walters 100, 42. D. Walters 100, 43. D. Walters 100, 44. D. Walters 100, 45. D. Walters 100, 46. D. Walters 100, 47. D. Walters 100, 48. D. Walters 100, 49. 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BBC-1

6.00 am Ceefax AM. 6.30 Breakfast Time. 9.00 Pages from Ceefax. 10.30 Play School. 10.50 Pages from Ceefax. 12.30 pm News After Noon. 12.57 Regional News. 1.00 Pebble Mill at one. 1.45 Chock-A-Block. 2.00 Pages from Ceefax. 3.45 Regional News (except London and Scotland). 5.30 Play School. 6.10 The Hunter. 6.15 Jackanory. The Church Mice Spread Their Wings. 6.30 Finders Keepers. 6.55 Newsround Extra. 5.5 The Machine Gunners.

5.30 FRIDAY PEOPLE. Mike Smith introduces more showbiz folk making the news or seeking a plug, including Rod Stewart, Queen, Chaka Khan, and Jimmy Savile. 5.55 Weather.

6.00 NEWS.

6.55 BLANKETY BLANK. Les Dawson hosts another round of the witless word game, with contributions from, among others, Stan Boardman, Mollie Sugden.



7.30 TERRY AND JUNE. And things don't improve as the evening goes on. 11. Scott, J. Whitehead as the cosy couple, taking up photography with predictably complex results, in dreary sitcom repeat. Ceefax sub-titles.

8.00 STARKY AND HUTCH. The Psychic. Another tired old re-hash: Glasser, Soul as the eternally-patrolling pair, trying to persuade a cafe owner with psychic powers — and secret fears — to help find a kidnapped girl.

8.50 POINTS OF VIEW. Barry Took sorts through another selection of letters from the BBC's postbag.

9.00 NEWS: weather.

9.25 MARNIE. Moody Hitchcock thriller, suspenseful in parts but not one of his best, with Tippi Hedren as neurotic, kleptomaniac blonde whose boss (Sean Connery) aims to help by marrying her and forcing her to confront the skeletons in her cupboard. Made in 1964.

11.30 NIGHT COURT. Santa Goes Harry Anderson as the nutty young judge of the Manhattan courtroom, in the week's second helping of imported insanity.

11.55 Weather; close.

Wales: 5.30 pm Interval. 5.35-5.55 Wales Today. Scotland: 7.00 pm Blankety Blank. 7.30 Stars in Your Eyes. 8.5 What a Carry On. 8.50-9.00 Submarine.

BBC-2

9.00 am Pages from Ceefax. 9.30 Daytime on Two: Science Topics; 9.52 Look and Read; 10.15 Mathscore 20; 10.38 Exploring Science; 11.00 Look, Look and Look Again; 11.22 Geography; 11.44 Going to Work; 12.30 Sorry Mate, I Didn't See You; 12.50 You Can't See the Wood for the Trees; 1.20 Thinking in Action; 1.30 Around Scotland; 2.00 Scene; 2.30 English File. 2.50 Pages from Ceefax.

5.25 NEWS with sub-titles: weather.

5.30 GREAT SPORTING MOMENTS: Ann Jones's Wimbledon.

6.00 THE INVADERS. Moonshot. Roy Thinnes leads the vintage SF serial.

6.50 PHIL SILBERS: Singing Comedy. Another comedy classic with Bilko and Co.

7.15 ORS 85. Singer Kim Wilde is this week's guest presenter of the magazine, joined at the Oxford Road studios by Janice Long and her tipped band, Jazawaki.

8.00 PHOTOGRAPHY. Harry Benson. The photo-journalist who began his career at 15 on the Hamilton Advertiser now works for Life, lives in a million-dollar Manhattan apartment and was named America's Photographer of the Year in 1982.

8.35 GARDENERS' WORLD. Shades of Spring. First of an occasional series under that title, taking us to the garden at Corris, in Snowdonia which its owners transformed from a barren hillside to "a slice of the Himalayas".

9.00 VICTORIA WOOD — AS SEEN ON TV. Not often enough, cry her fans, sorry, she is so reliable, the wit and wickedness of the wonderful Ms. W. in her new comedy series.

9.30 THE NEW PACIFIC. 1. The Pacific Age. The Pacific Ocean covers half the surface of the globe, and the Pacific Basin contains a third of the world's population — a great melting pot of cultures which takes in Japan, China, Australia and the developing countries of the Far East and the Pacific islands, like Papua New Guinea. This new eight-part series looks at the response of the people of the Pacific to a shrinking world.

10.30 NEWSNIGHT.

11.15 THE ROMAN SPRING OF MRS STONE. Based on a Tennessee Williams story, Jose Quintero's bleak, depressing drama about the decadent rich and their hangers-on stars Vivien Leigh as the rich, ageing actress trying to buy love; Warren Beatty as her Italian gigolo; Lotte Lenya as a sinister old madame. 1.00 Close.

Wales: 10.20-11.00 am Outlook.

ITV London

6.15 am Good Morning Britain. 9.25 News Headlines; Schools; 9.30 A Place to Live; 9.47 How We Used to Live; 10.9 Ways with Words; 10.26 The German Programme; 10.48 Insight; 11.5 My World; 11.22 Middle English; 11.39 Modern China — The Heart of the Dragon; 12.0 Emma and Grandpa; 12.10 pm Rainbow. Oracle sub-titles. 12.30 What Worries Me... 1.0 News. 1.20 Thames News. 1.30 Film: Tread Softly. With Frances Day. 3.0 Gems. 3.25 News Headlines. 3.30 Sons and Daughters. 4.0 Rainbow. Oracle sub-titles. 4.20 The Moonies. 4.25 How Dare You Oracle sub-titles. 4.50 FreeTime. 5.15 Blockbusters.

5.45 NEWS: weather.

6.00 THE 6 O'CLOCK SHOW.

7.00 ME AND MY GIRL: Love and Kittens. Return of the problem-parent sitcom, with Richard O'Sullivan as the merry widower, Joanne Whalley-Kilmer as his young daughter: Oracle sub-titles.

7.30 FAMILY FORTUNES. Back, too comes the big money quiz.

8.00 THE PRACTICE. Opening episode of the new bi-weekly soap opera continued on Sunday which Granada hope will become another Coronation Street, if they've got the prescription right: the day in, day out dramas in the lives of staff and patients at an ultra-modern Manchester health centre. John Fraser plays the senior, old-school doctor. Tim Brierley the radical whizz-kid medic. Bright Forsyth the woman doctor who (wouldn't you know it) tends to get over-emotional about her patients.

8.30 DEMPSEY AND MAKEPEACE: The Squeeze. Michael Brandon, Glynn Barber as the mismatched police partners.

9.30 THAT'S MY BOY: Moving Out. Return of the mother-makes-three sitcom, with Mollie Sugden. Ida joining the move northwards as her doctor son takes up a new job as a country GP. Oracle sub-titles.

10.00 NEWS AT TEN: weather.

10.30 THE LONDON PROGRAMME: Will the Government have to abandon its plan to make Stansted into London's third airport?

11.00 SOUTH OF WATFORD. Ben Elton investigates a revival of interest in witchcraft.

11.30 BLIND TERROR. Poor Mia Farrow, blinded in an accident, is stalked by a multiple killer in Richard Fleischer's 1971 thriller.

1.00 JOURNEY TO THE UNKNOWN: The Killing Bottle.

1.50 NIGHT THOUGHTS with Richard Causton. Closedown.

Channel 4

2.30 pm Master Bridge. 3.0 The Year of the French. 4.0 Built in Britain. 4.30 Countdown. 5.0 The Addams Family.

5.30 THE TUBE. After playing Mummies and Daddies on Monday, Jools and Paula get back to the fun and games, and lots of live music, at Studio Five in Newcastle.

7.0 CHANNEL FOUR NEWS.

7.30 RIGHT TO REPLY.

8.00 WHAT THE PAPERS SAY. Presented by Henry Porter of the Sunday Times.

8.15 A WEEK IN POLITICS: Interview with Roy Hattersley, Labour's Shadow Chancellor; plus a report on how re-election may affect the composition of the Parliamentary Labour Party.

9.00 TELL THE TRUTH. Graeme Garden chairs the who's-telling-the-truth panel game.

9.30 GARDENERS' CALENDAR. January. The month's new programme in the series takes Hannah Gordon to the REIS Garden at Wisley, again, to hear from the experts about constructing a peat wall, converting a glasshouse to an alpine house, and sowing seeds under glass.

10.00 NEWHART: The Looks of Love. Bob Newhart as the genial innkeeper.

10.30 FAMILIES. Mavis Nicholson is the presenter of this new series which looks at the family as an evolving institution, with the aid of families from all over the country who've passed through the various stages, and found that certain experiences of family life are common to us all, even if each front door conceals a different set of problems. She starts by looking back over the stages of her own family life, from childhood to becoming a grandmother.

11.15 NATURAL ENEMIES. Film editor Jeff Kanew made his directing/screenwriting debut with this chilling film about the crimes behind a newspaper headline. Hal Holbrook plays the apparently happy and successful publisher who has a secret desire to kill his wife (Louise Fletcher), children, and himself. Made on a low budget in 1979, it's the latest offering in the independent American cinema season: 1.5 Close.

SAC: 1.0 pm Countdown. 1.30 Abbott and Costello. 2.0 Fennestr. 2.05 Lon Goch. 2.35 Hyn o Fyd. 2.55 Egwyl. 3.5 Years Ahead. 3.50 Making the Most of... 4.15 Holiday Talk. 4.45 Hammer Awr Tŷ. 5.0 The Tube. 5.30 Today. 5.35 V. 5.40 V. 5.45 V. 5.50 V. 5.55 V. 6.00 V. 6.05 V. 6.10 V. 6.15 V. 6.20 V. 6.25 V. 6.30 V. 6.35 V. 6.40 V. 6.45 V. 6.50 V. 6.55 V. 7.00 V. 7.05 V. 7.10 V. 7.15 V. 7.20 V. 7.25 V. 7.30 V. 7.35 V. 7.40 V. 7.45 V. 7.50 V. 7.55 V. 8.00 V. 8.05 V. 8.10 V. 8.15 V. 8.20 V. 8.25 V. 8.30 V. 8.35 V. 8.40 V. 8.45 V. 8.50 V. 8.55 V. 9.00 V. 9.05 V. 9.10 V. 9.15 V. 9.20 V. 9.25 V. 9.30 V. 9.35 V. 9.40 V. 9.45 V. 9.50 V. 9.55 V. 10.00 V. 10.05 V. 10.10 V. 10.15 V. 10.20 V. 10.25 V. 10.30 V. 10.35 V. 10.40 V. 10.45 V. 10.50 V. 10.55 V. 11.00 V. 11.05 V. 11.10 V. 11.15 V. 11.20 V. 11.25 V. 11.30 V. 11.35 V. 11.40 V. 11.45 V. 11.50 V. 11.55 V. 12.00 V. 12.05 V. 12.10 V. 12.15 V. 12.20 V. 12.25 V. 12.30 V. 12.35 V. 12.40 V. 12.45 V. 12.50 V. 12.55 V. 1.00 V. 1.05 V. 1.10 V. 1.15 V. 1.20 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